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WORLD SOCCER

JANUARY
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World Club Cup report from Tokyo

Sao Paulo – MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

LENTINI
The £13m man

INTERVIEWS
George Graham
Bebeto
George Weah

EXCLUSIVE
Van Basten's winning ways

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JANUARY 1993 Vol.33 No.4

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Why VAN

MARCO VAN BASTEN is on top of everybody's world.

WORLD SOCCER'S readers voted him World Footballer of the Year; Milan president Silvio Berlusconi has tied him to a new contract which will keep Van Basten in the Stadio Meazza until 1996 and reward him with a basic £1.2million a year; he is top of the Italian league with Milan; and he is leading scorer both in Italy and in the Champions' Cup.

But what makes Van Basten even more remarkable is his apparently limitless ambition. At 28, many players who have earned only a fraction of the £20million which has gone Van Basten's way are thinking of reducing their commitments. Van Basten, however, still thinks of the achievements around the corner.

He says: "It would be wonderful to win the World Cup in the United States in 1994. England are our big rivals in the qualifying competition. But I think we will qualify. In the finals our coach will be Johan Cruyff and that, for me, would be a dream come true. He was my original tutor at Ajax Amsterdam and I consider him one of the best coaches in the world. He is also my best friend in football and it would be wonderful to win the World Cup with him.

"A lot of players win the World Cup and immediately retire from their national team. A lot of the Germans did that in Italy in 1990. But I can't envisage doing that. I'm a very competitive individual. I expect to be in England for the finals of the next European Championship in 1996."

Van Basten admits the rigours of being a centre-forward are not always to his liking. He says: "If every defender who marks me gave me the same sort of battering as Jurgen Kohler (Juventus and Germany) then I would have retired into midfield years ago. Vierchowod of Sampdoria is another of those defenders who gives me hell. But if I ever get depressed I think of Pele. He was the greatest player I've ever known and he always played in attack. If it was good enough for him, then it's good enough for me."

Van Basten is, indeed, the new king of football — inheritor of a crown which has been passed from one wonderful footballer to another in his 28-year lifetime.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s the world No. 1 was Real Madrid's Alfredo Di Stefano. Next came Pele, Cruyff and Germany's Franz Beckenbauer. Briefly, the world game was under the reign of Argentina's Mario Kempes. Then along came Michel Platini of France, followed — in all his grief and glory — by Diego Maradona.

Now the mantle has fallen on a lean and hungry centre-forward who is serving up performances of a style and execution unmatched by anyone else in the game. The evidence was clearly provided the very week Van Basten was voted World Player of the Year; it took the form of the four marvellous goals he cracked home for Milan against IFK Gothenburg in the Champions League.

At a time when football fitness and tactical refinements have reached a

zenith. Van Basten's achievements defy all logic. But even he is not always guaranteed success. Looking back at the European Championship finals last summer, when Holland lost on penalties to Denmark in the semi-finals, he says: "I played some of the best football of my life in those finals but it's goals that count.

"I didn't score in the finals so I had the whole world on top of me — particularly after I missed the vital penalty against Denmark.

"Yet I still believe we were the best side in Sweden. No other team played football the way we did. Our biggest mistake was in having a big celebration after we beat Germany in the group match. For several days after that game our training camp was like a big party. Playing against Denmark didn't seem to be that important. And we paid the penalty. I felt ill for days after the tournament because of what happened. I'd never felt like that before.

"Probably because of that I'm all the more determined to win the Champions' Cup again with Milan and to win the World Cup."

Van Basten is world famous for his football. His private life he protects. He is the only one of Milan's three Dutchmen still with the partner he brought to Italy and he and Liesbeth have two daughters.

At first they lived in a luxury apartment in the centre of Milan. Then Van Basten, very much the thinking man's footballer, realised that this was too restrictive for his family — particularly when he was away so much of the time. So he moved them out to the satellite town, Milano 3. Van Basten, too, is happier there. He likes the nearby countryside and the open air life. Perhaps that's why Van Basten, when he's not playing football, enjoys golf so much.

He is one of Dutch football's best golfers but he harbours no illusions that he might have made a living at the sport. His original ambition was to be a top gymnast. As a youngster he never dreamed of becoming a professional footballer.

Then, along came Cruyff. He saw his own leadership qualities reflected in Van Basten and, at just 22, the old Cruyff appointed the "new Cruyff" as Ajax captain. In 1987 he not only collected the Cup-winners' Cup after Ajax's victory over Lokomotive Leipzig in the Final, it was Van Basten who scored the decisive goal.

A few weeks later Ajax could hold him no longer: after 128 goals in as many games Van Basten was sold to Milan for £1.5million. The price looks ridiculous now.

But at the time Van Basten was seen as very much the junior partner at Milan alongside their other new Dutchman, Ruud Gullit. Indeed, in his first season in Italy injury restricted him to only 11 games and his three goals were meagre contribution indeed to Milan's championship success.

Thus it was hardly any wonder that Holland manager Rinus Michels was not ready to rely on him to shoot goals for Holland in their opening match of the 1988 European Championship finals against the Soviet Union in Germany.

Holland lost 1-0 and Van Basten appeared only as a second-half substitute. He was bitterly disappointed. He even considered walking out on the squad until Cruyff arrived to advise patience. Cruyff was proved absolutely right. Next time out, against England, Van Basten started the match and duly converted the hat-trick which all but decided the group.

In the semi-final Van Basten scored the late, decisive winner against West Germany and in the Final, in Munich, he scored with a wonderful volley in Holland's 2-0 defeat of the Soviet Union.

Van Basten says: "That day a dream came true. Even though I say it myself, it was a marvellous goal. Unrepeatable. I can still hardly believe it."

No wonder Holland won the European final. No wonder Van Basten was voted World Footballer of the Year. No wonder he was voted European Footballer of the Year. No wonder rumours abounded that Cruyff wanted him for Barcelona. No wonder that Berlusconi soon had Van Basten tied to a new contract.

Berlusconi knew exactly what he was doing. The multi-million contract appeared a bargain when, a year later, Van Basten scored two typically graceful goals in Milan's 4-0 rout of Steaua Bucharest in the Champions' Cup final and collected a winner's medal again in 1990.

Last season Van Basten was the Italian League's top scorer with 25 goals and he is heading for a repeat this term as well, as Milan stride out ahead of all competition in both Italy and Europe.

Marco Van Basten is in a class of his own.

KEIR **RADNEDGE**

Local rivals . . . Van Basten in action for Milan against Internazionale.

BASTEN can't stop winning

WHAT THEY SAY . . .

JOHAN CRUYFF *(Barcelona coach):* Van Basten is the best striker in the world. Nobody can compete with his talent, his skill and his goals.

FABIO CAPELLO *(Milan coach):* He's a superstar. Working with him is a privilege.

RINUS MICHELS *(ex-Holland manager):* He is the ideal all-round player. Fabulous in every aspect.

RUUD GULLIT *(Holland and Milan team-mate):* His ambition is incredible. No other player in the world has excited me more.

PRO-FILE

MARCO **VAN BASTEN**

MILAN AND HOLLAND

Born: October 31, 1964.

Previous Club: Ajax Amsterdam.

International record: 24 goals in 58 games for Holland.

Club record: 89 league goals in 143 games for Milan. 128 league goals in 143 games for Ajax.

City slicker . . . Van Basten congratulated by Demetrio Albertini and Frank Rijkaard.

THE KEIR RADNEDGE COMMENTARY

THE LEGACY OF IRVING SCHOLAR

ONE FACT not even Irving Scholar's bitterest critic could challenge: his passion for Tottenham Hotspur.

I have not yet seen the autobiography in which the club's former chairman has expanded on his rise and fall at White Hart Lane. The extracts published in *The Daily Express* have dealt with the comparative trivia of the personalities rather than the substantive issues.

For example, WHY did it all turn sour and what is the nature of the legacy of what we might term Scholarism? Scholar was devoted to Spurs. His story was a classic of terrace to boardroom.

His departure, overthrown by Amstrad tycoon Alan Sugar and Scholar's own managerial choice, Terry Venables, must have been devastating. It was survival of the fittest and Venables and Sugar were financially rather more match-fit when it came to kick-off, or kick-out.

Scholar envisaged Spurs as romantic leaders of a restructured English game.

He wanted a team who reflected his recollections of the Double side. His enthusiasm was infectious and was long reflected in positive terms by the media. The fall-out from the ultimate explosion is still being felt and will be recorded for many more years.

Most of the fuss surrounding Spurs, post Scholar, has centred on issues such as Venables's progression to businessman/coach alongside the comic sideshow being provided by Paul Gascoigne.

Time then, now, to examine — for the first time — the Scholar legacy.

He seized control, in partnership with Paul Bobroff, at a time when he foresaw financial calamity around the corner. Scholar could not buy enough shares to topple the incumbent Richardson family. Instead, he bought use of the voting rights. The outcome of a brilliant manoeuvre was a successful coup.

Scholar's passion for Spurs was reinforced by his fascination for foreign football. He wanted Spurs to be a market leader on and off the pitch in the manner of the top continental clubs.

And why not? His vehicle for financial mobility was the Stock Exchange. Tottenham "went public" with their shares to raise cash to resolve existing pressures and help launch the anciliary businesses which, it was envisaged, would mushroom all around the purely football activities.

Now, with all the benefits of hindsight, we may consider the flaw was in the core role of football itself. Look at those foreign models.

Milan is an integral part of Fininvest but NOT the cornerstore. Juventus is the high-profile sporting face of FIAT but NOT its foundation. PSV is an offshoot of Philips NOT its profit base.

Tottenham's grand plan, instead, depended entirely on football-related activities. For one reason or another — I'm no City analyst — a couple of those deals turned painfully sour, notably the sportswear deal with Hummel and the computer ticket business.

At the end of the financial day, the football club — and we all know what unpredictable financial institutions they can be, at the best of times — was being dragged down by the rest of the business.

Other clubs, other directors, looked on and drew the wrong conclusion i.e. that going public had proved a failure.

Wrong. Going public was a success. What happened afterwards may be considered the failure. So, faced with the financial exigencies of the Taylor Report, clubs looked elsewhere to generate new money and came up with the controversial, supporter-derided, bond schemes.

Here then was the first indirect, unintentional, unloved legacy of Scholarism.

The second indirect legacy is the Sky television deal. If Scholar's dream had come even half true there would have been no need for Venables to enlist Alan Sugar's support. And the rest is as plain as day. Without Sugar — and his openly declared interest in the satellite revolution — ITV would no doubt have maintained its monopoly of top-flight league football.

If Scholar reads this, perhaps back in the south of France from whence he once rode to Spurs' rescue, he may reflect on how he changed the shape of the game . . . not, I'm sure, in ways he would have wished or could have imagined.

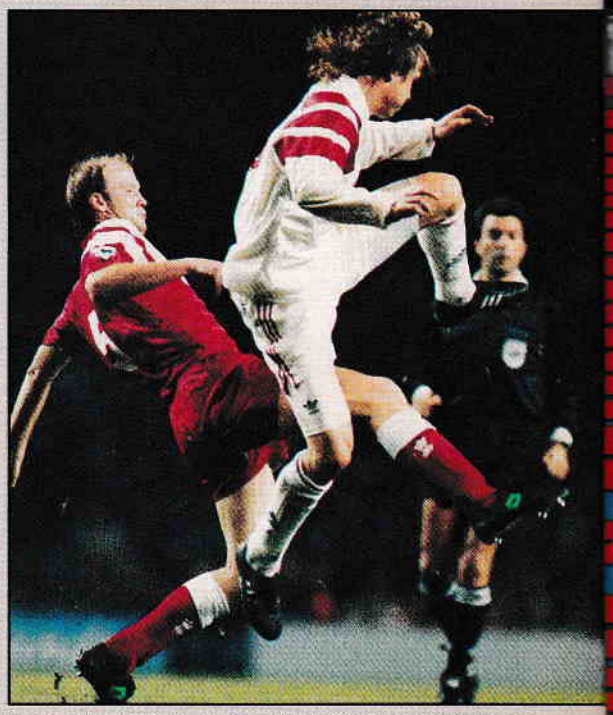
HOW SPARTAK GOT AWAY AGAIN

THE LIVERPOOL saga is not the first time Moscow Spartak have shot themselves in the administrative foot.

The previous occasion was in the spring of last year when Spartak beat Real Madrid in the quarter-finals of the European Champions' Cup thanks to striker Dimitri Radchenko's goals.

He scored twice in Spartak's 3-1 victory in Spain in the second leg. But it emerged later that his transfer to Spartak from Zenit Leningrad was the subject of dispute and had not been registered by the old Soviet federation.

A week later Madrid protested but UEFA dismissed the



Too good . . . Spartak, the fifth club to win at Anfield in Europe.

YET ANOTHER BOOK LIST

MY LIST last month of the Top Ten Football Books created wide interest. I was then asked for my Top Ten Football Reference Books.
I'm afraid I could not manage ten. But here are the Top Seven (again, listed in alphabetical order):

- Any current **Rothmans Football Yearbook** (edited by Jack Rollin, Headline Publications).
- Any current **Annuario del Calcio Mondiale** (edited by Salvatore Lo Presti, SET Turin).
- Any current **European Football Yearbook** (edited by Mike Hammond, Sports Projects).
- **Encyklopedia Pitkarskich Mistrzostw Swiata** — Polish who's who of World Cup history (edited by Andrzej Gowarzewski, Katowice).
- **Guinness Record of World Soccer** (edited by Guy Oliver, Guinness Publications).
- **The Encyclopedia of World Soccer** (edited by Richard Henshaw, published in 1979 by New Republic Books, Washington DC).
- **World Soccer from A to Z** (edited by Norman Barrett, published in 1973 by Pan).

appeal as out of time. Article 17 of the Cup-winners' Cup rules states that protests must be submitted to UEFA within 24 hours of the final whistle.

Michail Rusyayev is a rare player in that he returned to Moscow this past summer after two seasons in the German Second Division (equivalent to the English First) with Alemannia Aachen and VfB Oldenburg.

He lost his place with Oldenburg towards the end of last season and went back to Spartak in July in time to help them win the Russian title — and reach the quarter-finals of the Cup-winners' Cup.

Rusyayev left Oldenburg because his contract had expired and the new Russian federation then failed to sort out the proper paperwork despite requests from the German DFB. Rusyayev, once capped by the old Soviet Union, assumed he was clear to play against both Avenir Beggen and then Liverpool.

The tangle persuaded UEFA to refer the matter to FIFA, whose rules govern international transfers. FIFA decided that the Russian federation, rather than Spartak, had been at fault.

Incidents such as this will multiply over the next few years. The newly-independent federations of eastern Europe cannot afford the staff to cope with all the work necessary to live in the world of international football. This is why UEFA have launched an initiative to provide the new eastern federations with managerial and financial support and other help.

If there were evidence that Spartak had tried to flout the rules, that would be another matter. In the meantime, matches must be decided on the pitch rather than in committee room.

Not good . . . Platt has had little luck this season.

WHAT NOW FOR DAVID PLATT?

DAVID PLATT hardly deserves the ill luck which has befallen him this season.

He's worked hard as a footballer, and on his off-pitch image, and to assimilate to life in Italy. But somewhere, somehow, the right result is still missing.

Certainly Platt has no doubt turned his transfer into a financial success. But, hard as fans may sometimes find it to believe, footballers' genuine ambition revolves around achievement in the game.

Bari, last season, were relegated. Juventus will not be relegated but Platt's role and future are the subject of question. If he doesn't suit their tactical straightjacket, can his career progress? Now he must also struggle to overcome a knee injury.

A whispering campaign is under way which has sparked all sorts of rumours.

For instance, that Juventus already consider Platt surplus to requirements; that Fiorentina's Stefan Effenberg has been lined up as replacement; that Blackburn officials have been over to Turin for exploratory talks.

Would Juventus already be thinking in such negative terms, when the season is not yet at the halfway mark? Don't rule it out. They have already virtually conceded the title to Milan. Future planning is of the essence.

WORKING ROUND A WORK PERMIT

WILL Chelsea be able to obtain a work permit for CSKA Moscow goalkeeper Dimitri Kharin? Or have the ground rules changed?

I understood that any foreigner signed by an English club needed to be a current international who was, by virtue of his particular talent, guaranteed a first-team place here.

But Chelsea manager Ian Porterfield, on the day he signed Kharin, would not commit himself to the prospect of a first-team place. And, in any case, Kharin is not first-choice for the new Russian national team.

He was certainly outstanding for the CIS in the finals of the European Championship in Sweden in the summer.

But the CIS, as an international entity in football terms, no longer exists.

Perhaps Chelsea could seek advice from Ipswich who appear to have worked a piece of magic in obtaining a work permit for Bulgarian forward Boncho Guentchev, from Sporting Lisbon. His international credentials do not compare in any way with those of Kharin.

Indeed, checking back through Bulgaria's internationals for the past two years I could find no record of him in the starting line-up and no record of his appearing as substitute, either, but I accept he may have sneaked on unnoticed once or twice.

I had to go back to September 26, 1990, to find Guentchev playing for Bulgaria in a 2-0 defeat by Sweden and that appears to have been his only full cap.

Now, it may be that he is married to a European Community national. If so, why is everyone keeping quiet about it? At the moment the situation appears anomalous, to say the least.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS

WE MAY recall 1992 as The Year Dreams Came True: ★ the year Denmark came, literally, from nowhere to win the European championship; ★ the year Barcelona, at long last, secured the Champions' Cup; ★ the year Diego Maradona made a comeback almost as controversial as his premature departure from the game; ★ the year Paul Gascoigne's transfer to Lazio really did go through; ★ the year the world transfer ceiling hit £13million courtesy of Gianluigi Lentini and the year the British domestic record reached £3.3million courtesy of Alan Shearer; ★ the year, on an individual level, of Marco Van Basten.

As for 1993, well . . . may it bring all our readers all the success they would wish. And if we can't always win, let's try to lose, at least, with grace.

Milan running away with Champions League

MILAN went back to basics — their three Dutchmen — as they followed up their four-goal thrashing of IFK Gothenburg by winning 2-1 away to PSV Eindhoven and emphasising just why they are runaway favourites to win the Champions' Cup for the fifth time.

Italy's pride already have taken a significant grip on Group B of the Champions' League thanks to Marco Van Basten's four-goal demolition of the Swedes and their triumph in Eindhoven.

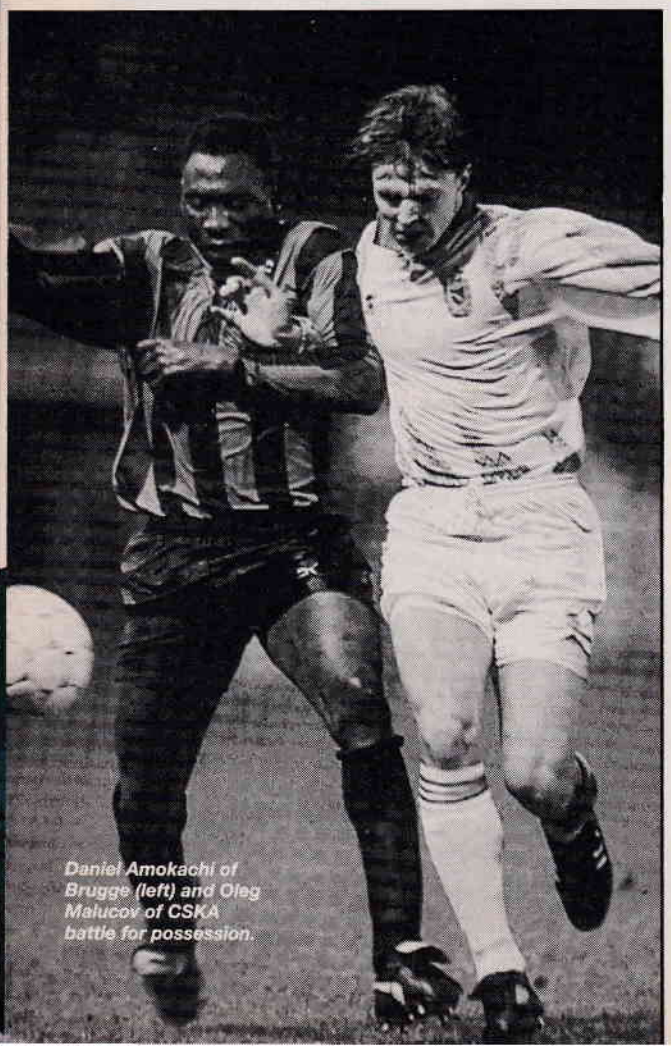
Frank Rijkaard and Marco Simone scored the goals in Holland but Van Basten and Ruud Gullit also provided significant contributions after their overnight flight home from lucrative exile in northern Italy.

Rijkaard opened the scoring, after nearly missing the game because of a bruised knee. PSV's perpetually unsettled Brazilian, Romario, who had

Rijkaard, Gullit and Van Basten lead the challenge

scored five times in Eindhoven's previous two Champions' Cup games, hit back in spectacular fashion but a second-half goal by Simone left Milan as the only team in the eight-strong League to hold a 100 per cent record after two match days.

Frank Rijkaard heads Milan's first goal against PSV Eindhoven.



Daniel Amokachi of Brugge (left) and Oleg Malucov of CSKA battle for possession.

IFK Gothenburg snatched a 1-0 victory over FC Porto to move into second place in Group B thanks to a late shot by Peter Eriksson through goalkeeper Vitor Baia's legs.

In Group A, Marseille moved to the top after winning 3-0 against Club Brugge. Alen Boksic, the Croatian whose two goals against Dinamo Bucharest put Marseille into the last eight, netted two more in the first half after Franck Sauzee had given the French champions an early lead.

Veteran coach Raymond Goethals may have considered second thoughts after telling a Belgian newspaper the previous day that he would retire "finally" at the end of the season.

Goethals, now 71, had said: "If I had the Marseille team of previous seasons I would be tempted to carry on. But the current side is weak in too many sections."

Marseille's rapid-fire demolition of the Belgians was a sharp reply on behalf of his players. But Goethals is such a wily old campaigner, perhaps that is precisely the reaction he hoped to provoke.

Rangers, who fought back with some spirit to hold Marseille 2-2 at Ibrox on the first match day of the Champions' League, moved into second place behind the French leaders of Group A after defeating the poverty-stricken, frozen-out Russians from CSKA Moscow by 1-0.

Ian Ferguson capitalised on a mistake by CSKA goalkeeper Alexander Guteyev after 13 minutes for the only goal. Guteyev's feeble failure to beat away a cross from the left merely emphasised why CSKA had tried to persuade their Chelsea-bound first choice, Dimitri Kharin, to play one last game for them.

Kharin preferred to continue packing back in Moscow and CSKA — who must hedge-hop to Germany for all their three "home" matches in the Champions' League — showed none of the fire which had shocked title-holders Barcelona in the second round.

Rangers manager Walter Smith said: "I thought we deserved the victory after a shaky period at the start. It's much too early to say that Group A is a two-horse race between us and Marseille. We are happy to have three points out of four. We had by far the better of the second half and could have had a couple of more goals."

There were two second-round surprises in the UEFA Cup — Paris Saint-Germain beating Anderlecht on the away goals rule and Standard Liege contributing further to Belgian distress by losing to Auxerre.

RINO **LANDA**

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

First match day (November 25)

GROUP A

Club Brugge 1 (Amokachi 17)
CSKA Moscow 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,500. **Ref:** Karlsson (Swe)
Brugge: Verlinden — Verspaille (Creve 78), Cossey, Disztl, Plovie, Borkelmans, Verheyen, Staelens, Van der Elst, Amokachi (Querter 88), Dziubinski.
CSKA: Khahn (Gutseyev 46) — Gushin, Bystrov, Maliukov, Kolotovkin — Ivanov, Mashkarin, Kolesnikov — Sergeyev, Grishin (Karsakov 30), Faizullin.

Rangers 2 (McSwegan 76, Hateley 82)
Marseille 2 (Boksic 31, Voller 55)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 41,624. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)
Rangers: Goram — Murray, D Robertson, Gough (Pressley 46), McPherson, Brown, Steven (McSwegan 74), McCall, Durrant, Hateley, Mikhailichenko.
Marseille: Barthez — Angloma, Di Meco, Boli, Sauzee, Desailly, Casoni, Boksic (Durand 82), Vtler (Eydelie 89), Pele, Deschamps.

GROUP B

Milan 4 (Van Basten 33, 53 pen, 61, 62)
IFK Gothenburg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 61,000. **Ref:** Van den Wijngaert (Bel)
Milan: Antonioli — Tassotti, Massaro, Albertini, Costacurta (Nava 67), Baresi, Lentini (Simone 74), Rijkaard, Van Basten, Papin, Eranio.
IFK: Ravelli — Johansson, Pedersen, Svensson, Kamark, P. Eriksson, Rehn (Leksell 62), Mild, M Nilsson, T Andersson, Ekstrtm.

FC Porto 2 (Jaime Magalhaes 35, Jose Carlos 75)
PSV Eindhoven 2 (Romario 43, 60)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Martin Navarrete (Spa)
Porto: Vitor Baia — Joao Pinto, Andre, Aloisio, Jose Carlos, Rui Filipe, Jaime Magalhaes, Kostadinov, Domingos, Semedo (Toze 63), Jorge Couto.
PSV: Van Breukelen — Linskens, *Van Tiggelen, E Koeman (De Jong 80), Heintze (Faber 32), Popescu, Vanenburg, Ellerman, Romario, Kieft, Nurman.
*Van Tiggelen red card, 74 mins.

Second match day (December 9)

GROUP A

CSKA Moscow 0
Rangers 1 (Ferguson 13)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** K Nielsen (Den)
CSKA: Guteyev — Gushin (Ivanov 66), Kolotovkin, Bystrov, Fokhin, Maliukov, Minko (Grishin 59), Korsakov, Sergeyev, Bushmanov, Faizullin.
Rangers: Goram — McCall, D Robertson, Durrant, McPherson, Brown, Steven, Ferguson, McCoist, Hateley, Mikhailichenko.

Marseille 3 (Sauzee 4pen, Boksic 10, 26)
Club Brugge 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (Ger)
Marseille: Barthez — Angloma, Casoni, Desailly, Di Meco, Eydelie (Durand 82), Deschamps, Sauzee, Thomas, Boksic (Ferreri 86), Pele.
Brugge: Verlinden — Verspaille, Plovie, Disztl, Borkelmans, Verheyen, Van der Heyden, Staelens, Van der Elst, Amokachi (Cossey 46), Dziubinski.

GROUP B

IFK Gothenburg 1 (Eriksson 87)
FC Porto 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,303. **Ref:** Marko (Cze)
IFK: Ravelli — M Andersson, Kaarnark, M Nilsson, Svensson, T. Andersson, P Eriksson, Mild, Rehn, Bengtsson (Lindqvist 71), Ekstrom.
Porto: Vitor Baia — Joao Pinto, Aloisio, Fernando Couto, Bandeirinha, Jorge Couto, Antonio Carlos (Toze 65), Andre, Semedo, Kostadinov, Domingos.

PSV Eindhoven 1 (Romario 66)
Milan 2 (Rijkaard 19, Simone 62)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Spirin (Rus)
PSV: Van Breukelen — Beerens, Faber, Linskens, Heintze, Vanenburg, Popescu, Nurman, Ellerman (Hoekstra 38), Romario, Kieft.
Milan: Rossi — Tassotti, Maldini, Albertini, Costacurta, Baresi, Lentini, Rijkaard, Van Basten, Gullit (Eranio 59), Simone (Massaro 89).

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	2	1	1	0	5	2	3
Rangers	2	1	1	0	3	2	2
Brugge	2	1	0	1	1	3	2
CSKA Moscow	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

FIXTURES

March 3: Brugge v Rangers, CSKA v Marseille

March 17: Marseille v CSKA Moscow, Rangers v Brugge

April 7: Marseille v Rangers, CSKA Moscow v Brugge

April 21: Brugge v Marseille, Rangers v CSKA Moscow

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
IFK Gothenburg	2	1	0	1	1	4	2
PSV Eindhoven	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
FC Porto	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

FIXTURES

March 3: FC Porto v Milan, PSV Eindhoven v IFK Gothenburg

March 17: IFK Gothenburg v PSV Eindhoven, Milan v FC Porto

April 7: IFK Gothenburg v Milan, PSV Eindhoven v FC Porto

April 21: FC Porto v IFK Gothenburg, Milan v PSV Eindhoven

UEFA CUP

Quarter-Final Draw

Real Madrid v Paris Saint-Germain
Roma v Borussia Dortmund
Benfica v Juventus
Auxerre v Ajax Amsterdam

Third round, first legs (November 25 unless stated)

Ajax Amsterdam 2 (Davids 1, Jonk 83)
Kaiserslautern 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** King (Wal).
Played Nov 24.

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Chapuisat 12, Zorc 23 pen, Povlsen 42)
Zaragoza 1 (Franco 51)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 36,800. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng).
Played Nov 24.
* Solana (Zaragoza) sent off, 83 mins.

Moscow Dynamo 2 (Kalitvintsev 75, Dertkatch 88)
Benfica 2 (Isaias 35, 54)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol)

Paris Saint-Germain 0
Anderlecht 0
Att: 32,402. **Ref:** Amendolla (It).
Played Nov 24.
* Ginola (Paris), 22 mins, and Albert (Anderlecht), 55 mins, both sent off.

Roma 3 (Aldair 58, 90, Muzzi 80)
Galatasaray 1 (Hakan 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,980. **Ref:** Heinemann (Ger)
* Carboni (Roma), 75 mins, and Ugur (Galatasaray), 38 mins, both sent off.

Sigma Olomouc 1 (Marosi 89)
Juventus 2 (Moller 23, D Baggio 76)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Urio Velasquez (Spa)

Standard Liege 2 (Goossens 9, 48)
Auxerre 2 (Verlaat 55, Baticle 71)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** McCluskey (Sco)
Played Nov 24.

Vitesse Arnhem 0
Real Madrid 1 (Hierro 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Natri (Fin)
Played Nov 26.

Third round, second legs (December 9 unless stated)

Anderlecht 1 (Bosman 53)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Kombouare 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,000.
Played December 8.
Paris on away goals: 1-1 aggregate

Auxerre 2 (Baticle 71, Dutuel 82)
Standard Liege 1 (Wilmots 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,000.
Played December 8.
Auxerre 4-3 on agg

Benfica 2 (Isaias 51, Yuran 58)
Moscow Dynamo 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000.
Played December 8.
Benfica 4-2 on agg

Kaiserslautern 0
Ajax 1 (Rob Alflen 43)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,000.
Played December 8.
Ajax 3-0 on agg

Zaragoza 2 (Poyet 26, Brehme 90)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Chapuisat 50)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000.
Played December 8.
Dortmund 4-3 on agg

Galatasaray 3 (Mustafa 27, 58, Arif 75)
Roma 2 (Caniggia 8, Hassler 47)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000.
Roma 5-4 on agg

Real Madrid 1 (Zamorano 31)
Vitesse Arnhem 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 36,000.
Played December 10.
Real Madrid 2-0 on agg

Juventus 5 (Vialli 6, 50, Casiraghi 28, Moller 46, Ravanelli 69)
Sigma Olomouc 0
HT: 2-0.
Played December 10.
Juventus 7-1 on agg

Zaragoza's Higuera in action against Dortmund's Reuter.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

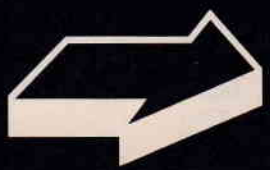
Quarter-Final Draw

Sparta Prague v Parma
Olympiakos v Atletico Madrid
Steaua v Antwerp
Feyenourd v Moscow Spartak

● *Ties on March 2/3/4 and 16/17/18*

EURO SCENE

8–12 Italy, spotlight on Lentini.
12–13 Germany, spotlight on Sammer.
14–15 Spain, spotlight on Bebeto.
16–17 France, spotlight on Weah.
20–31 Rest of Europe, including spotlight on Schwarz, and Olsen.



Streets ahead

Milan's dominance drives the rest up a cul-de-sac

CALL IT the "Milan Factor". Early on the Monday after Juventus had lost their vital top-of-table clash to leaders and champions Milan, the phone rang at Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni's home. FIAT president and Juventus owner-patron Gianni Agnelli was on the line.

He had called for an explanation of what had gone wrong against Milan, and to exhort Trapattoni to "stick to his guns" and keep up the, er, good work.

The effect of the current Milan dominance is not just that for the second consecutive season it is already threatening to kill off all interest in the title contest.

More significantly, it is beginning to drive the other clubs up a cul-de-sac in which defeat leads to crisis, which leads to demoralisation, which leads to further crisis, leading to further defeat etc.

On the ground . . . Vialli takes on the opposition during the Juventus v Milan match.

Internazionale coach Osvaldo Bagnoli probably spoke for many of his colleagues when saying: "After the result in Turin all the other teams will now just concentrate on trying to get into the top five to guarantee themselves a place in the UEFA Cup."

That Agnelli phone call to Trapattoni was an indication of just how the pressure had got to the

LIGHT ON SPOT

GIANLUIGI

LENTINI

Treading on tiptoe to

Shy young Gianluigi is still unspoiled

ITALY'S latest golden boy, Gianluigi Lentini, looks like a superstar and plays like a superstar.

White Porsche, sunglasses, gold bracelet, TV announcer girl-friend, designer clothes and Gucci shoes . . . he personifies a man earning over £1 million a year from football.

On the pitch he glides elegantly and effortlessly past opponents, and for a 23-year-old he displays remarkable vision and maturity. But off the field Lentini turns out to be a shy, almost withdrawn character, cautious when conversing with strangers. The trappings of wealth have not spoiled him — yet.

But this timid youngster, who talks mainly in whispers, is the world's most expensive footballer. Italian champions Milan paid Torino nearly £13 million, which included his wages over three years.

Lentini thus upstaged all those costly foreign imports, but is he living up to expectations? He says: "I know that in Milan the pressure on players is greater than at any club in the world. But if you succeed in making the breakthrough, then you are truly at the top. There is nothing above Milan."

Even so, he was not that keen on leaving Torino. "I would have stayed — money isn't everything," he says.

"I left my friends behind, but I had no choice. In professional football the clubs or their owners decide where and when a player has to move. But I shall always remain a Torinese at heart."

There were angry protests and demonstrations in Turin when his transfer was announced. "Now I am booed everywhere I play because of the exorbitant fee paid for me. But that is not my fault.

"This worried me at first. Now I have learned to live with it. I ignore the taunts just like I ignore the lies spread about me and my lifestyle in the media.

"There are three daily sports papers in Italy and I suppose they must somehow fill their pages. But why must they invent stories which are hurtful?"

Lentini was taught football by his father, who took him regularly to see Torino play. Now he earns in a week what his father, a bricklayer, makes in a year. But that has not spoiled their relationship.

"We don't discuss my status, but my father is always pleased when I play well," says Lentini.

"The money has not affected me, nor him, in the slightest."

He says he would like to score more goals, but he is a playmaker rather than a finisher. In Turin he had a free hand and could roam all over the field. In Milan he must strictly follow the tactical instructions.

Continuity . . . Fabio Capello.

His tendons and muscles are often black and blue from the attentions of uncompromising defenders. He has already been operated on twice, but now appears superbly fit. And he thinks that only Juventus can stop Milan from winning the title again.

The biggest problem are the numerous foreigners. "They take up the key positions at the expense of Italians," he complains.

"On the other hand we can learn a lot from them."

A regular place in Milan's team is a guarantee of a call into the national side, and Lentini says: "It helps, if only because national manager

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	11	8	3	0	30	13	19
Internazionale	12	6	3	3	20	17	15
Juventus	12	5	4	3	23	15	14
Fiorentina	12	5	4	3	28	21	14
Torino	12	4	6	2	17	11	14
Cagliari	12	6	2	4	13	12	14
Sampdoria	11	5	3	3	21	18	13
Atalanta	12	6	1	5	15	19	13
Lazio	12	3	6	3	24	21	12
Parma	12	6	0	6	14	15	12
Roma	12	4	3	5	16	14	11
Brescia	12	3	5	4	13	17	11
Genoa	12	2	7	3	21	26	11
Udinese	12	4	2	6	16	18	10
Foggia	12	4	2	6	13	21	10
Napoli	12	3	2	7	18	24	8
Ancona	12	3	2	7	22	31	8
Pescara	12	2	1	9	17	28	5

opposition He also was sounding him out about the alleged jewel in the Juventus crown, Roberto Baggio.

Just before Juventus went out to do battle with Milan, Baggio had gone on television, on one of the channels owned by Milan President Silvio Berlusconi, to complain that he no longer felt properly protected by his club.

Baggio, who missed the Milan game because he had hurt a rib in Italy's 0-0 World Cup draw with Scotland at Ibrox, apparently feels the club, or more probably coach Trapattoni, are less than wholehearted in their enthusiasm for his expensive talents (around £8 million from Fiorentina in May 1990).

It is no secret that Baggio does not conform to the ideal Trapattoni midfielder.

Trapattoni has never liked "passengers", preferring battlers and hard men along the lines of Marco Tardelli and Beppe Furino.

Throughout his days at Juventus, even the great Michel Platini was regularily at loggerheads with Trapattoni, whom he accused of being too negative and defensive.

The coach, for his part, would respond by urging Platini to get "stuck in" and help out with defensive work.

When, after a recent training session, Trapattoni told reporters: "I know Baggio well. I have played with and coached players of similar characteristics. Some mature early, some later . . . and then there's the question of temperament.

"Furino used to bite people's ankles, Baggio doesn't. Without grapes, you cannot make wine."

The message seemed clear enough.

When Trapattoni later opted to play Baggio in a more forward position, it seemed that he had abandoned the concept of Baggio the "playmaker" and opted to settle for Baggio the gifted goalscorer.

Then the injury-enforced absence led to media speculation that elements even within the Juventus side felt that they could get along nicely, without their alleged leader, So Baggio opted to speak out in self-defence.

If Juventus were still in there fighting for the title, the Baggio business would go unnoticed. But in a frustrating period for the club, it has caused tempers to fray even more.

Significantly, too, Gianluca Vialli, the man whose last -minute penalty miss against Milan may have compromised the Juventus championship campaign beyond recall, summed up the resigned mood in Turin when saying in the week after the game: "I'm certain that when we win the UEFA Cup, Trapattoni will thank me."

Vialli had prepared for the big game with Milan by scoring in the 2-1 Turin derby defeat of Torino.

That goal, however, had come as a welcome release after he had been dropped from the Italian side who drew the World Cup tie in Glasgow.

Given the far from convincing Italian performance against Scotland, Vialli was probably well entitled to feel that he ought to have played.

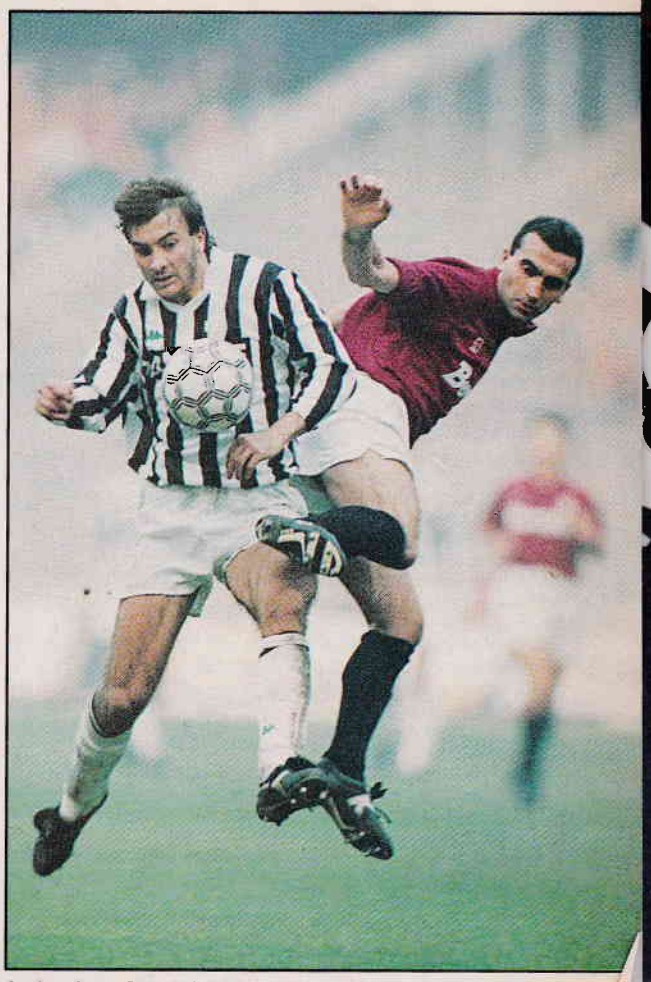
Arrigo Sacchi's Italy have yet to convince, and have yet to put together a solid 90 minute performance.

Sacchi is the first to realise this, telling *WORLD SOCCER* recently that there is still much to do before his side reaches Milan's elevated standards.

Ominously too, Sacchi added that his Italy cannot call on the services of certain Dutchmen called Rijkaard and Van Basten. Just as well that the Italian qualifying group does not look difficult.

Just as well, too, that Sacchi can count on the backing of Football Federation President Antonio Matarrese. Ironically, it would seem that even Sacchi is feeling under pressure from the "Milan Factor".

PADDY **AGNEW**



In the air . . . Casiraghi of Juventus and Bruno of Torino.

'I'm certain that when we win the UEFA Cup, Trapattoni will thank me for that penalty miss'

the top

Arrigo Sacchi (Milan's former coach) favours the same system we use at the club. And our club manager, Fabio Capello, has continued his philosophy.

"For me, to play in the national team is the pinnacle of achievement. There is no greater personal satisfaction than to wear the national shirt."

Lentini, who has nine caps, can look forward to many more. He has become a vital cog in the machinery of Milan and the national side. His quiet, unassuming attitude has earned him friends among the playing staff.

"A model professional," says Capello.

Lentini began his professional career with Torino, where he played as a junior in 1986.

Until 1991 he was always in the first team, except in 1988-89, when he was loaned out to Second Division Ancona to gain experience — there is no reserve football in Italy.

His greatest success to date was reaching the 1991 UEFA Cup Final, which Torino lost to Ajax Amsterdam on away goals.

The national team failed to reach the European Championship finals, but are fighting to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

They would be assured of tremendous support there from the large Italian colony, especially on the Eastern seaboard.

"To play in the World Cup finals would be marvellous," says Lentini.

"But I wouldn't be nervous. No matter how important the game, I always remain calm and composed."

Superstar or not, temperamental outbursts are simply not his style.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

PRO-FILE

GIANLUIGI **LENTINI**

MILAN AND ITALY

Born: March 27, 1969.

Previous clubs: Torino, Ancona (loan).

League debut: 1986, for Torino v Brescia, lost 2-0.

International debut: February 1991, v Belgium. 0-0 draw.

Caps: nine.

Room at the top

WHEN Sergio Cragnotti's son Massimo joined his father's party in the lounge of one of London's most exclusive hotels he was wearing an open-neck shirt and jeans.

A waiter soon arrived. "Excuse me, sir," he said. "I am afraid you cannot stay without a jacket and a tie."

Cragnotti senior, owner of SS Lazio, spoke to one of his employees, who returned shortly afterwards with a loud check jacket and tie. Massimo put them on and the group rose to go the dining room.

"I am very sorry, sir," said another waiter. "The gentleman will not be allowed into the restaurant wearing jeans."

The 52-year-old Cragnotti, who owns a merchant bank and whose food and packaging company has a turnover of two billion dollars a year, was undaunted.

"Let me speak to your manager," he said in French, and followed the waiter down the corridor. Five minutes later Cragnotti returned and the group sat down at their dinner table. They included Massimo, still wearing his jeans.

Coach . . . Zoff.

Roman style . . . Gascoigne in action for Lazio (right).

Wembley stupidity . . . the tackle that nearly ended a career (below).

English clubs can learn, just as Gascoigne is learning

Signor Cragnotti is a man who gets things done.

When there was a big debate in Rome early this season, about whether Paul Gascoigne was fit to play his first Serie A match, Cragnotti was said to be insisting that Gazza should play. Dino Zoff, the coach, was hesitating.

So did Cragnotti make the decision? Zoff, who does not speak English, laughed when the question translated. "In Italy, the coach always picks the team," he said.

Cragnotti went on to say that Gascoigne was "his choice" to join Lazio. That was not strictly true because Gian Marco Calleri was still the owner of the club when the £5.5m deal was signed. Cragnotti took over in February, 1991.

What he meant was that Gascoigne was the player he would have chosen from those available after the 1990 World Cup. "I saw him in the World Cup and I liked him," he said. "He showed he was one of the best players in Europe, and would get better."

What did he think when he heard that Gascoigne had been badly hurt in the 1991 FA Cup Final, snapping ligaments in his right knee with an attempted tackle that had to rate as one of the most foolhardy ever attempted at Wembley?

"I didn't see the match on TV but I was told later," he said. "It worried me but I put blame on those on the Tottenham bench. They should have seen that he was pumped up and should have calmed him down."

As the weeks went by, and Gascoigne retarded his progress with a mysterious fall in a Newcastle club, Lazio officials still believed their man would make it.

"Paul has settled well because he has the Latin temperament. He loves the life here. He loves playing football and he hates being beaten.

"He doesn't go to any nightclubs. He is leaner and fitter than he was at Spurs because of his new lifestyle.

"We think he is about 70 per cent of his best, but we will be patient. We do not expect him to reach his best this season.

"He is an intelligent man. He knows what he has to do and is prepared to do it."

Gascoigne drives home after training each day, to a villa he shares with girlfriend Sheryl and her two children.

"He is able to get on with his football because nobody in Italy is trying to delve into his personal life," said Cragnotti. "We have had no problems with him off the field. The Press want to write about football and we all respond well to that."

Cragnotti watches English football on video, and does not think there are many potential Gazzas coming along. When pressed on who the Italian clubs might want next, Manzini said: "Shearer. He gets goals and is strong."

Some imports from Britain saw their careers go downhill after upsetting the powerful Italian sporting Press. Gazza scored an early own goal when he announced after one particularly irritating tabloid excess in an English paper that he was imposing a two-week speaking ban.

Around 30 journalists turn up daily at the Lazio training ground, where they have their own viewing quarters, and they were not happy. So how did Cragnotti view it?

"In Italy the Press is very important. Clubs need to be co-operative, and each Serie A side has a Press officer. Journalists help maintain interest in the game and keep up its image.

"Of course we do not always agree with what they say but we respect them all the same. I think Gazza knows what to say. He speaks to them and they respect him." When told that no English club had a full-time Press officer, he replied: "I am surprised."

When he heard that Arsenal, whose Press working facilities are now among the best in the Premier League, only rarely make players available to be interviewed, he said: "English clubs are living in the past."

In Italy hardly any domestic matches are shown live on TV. There is only a weekly programme of edited highlights.

The Press promote the game, with daily sporting newspapers building up interest through the week.

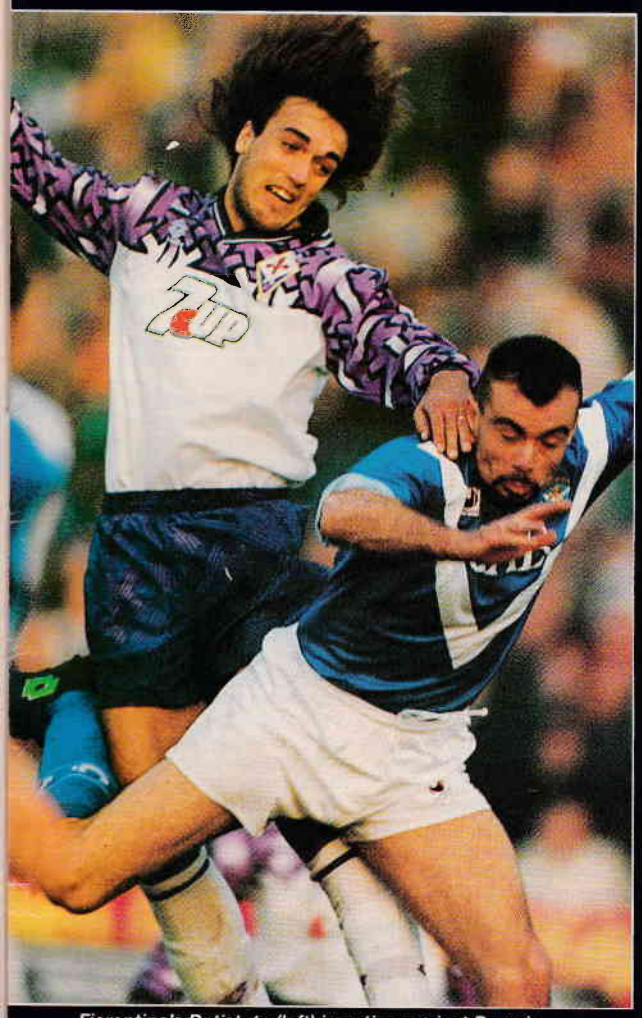
When Cragnotti was in London he entertained a group of English football writers to dinner. You could not imagine the chairman of an English club taking out a group of Italian writers.

Where was Gazza while all this was going on? Zoff was asked: "Is he at a night club?" Zoff laughed. "They are not allowed out," he said, puffing a cigarette. Do any of his players smoke? "None."

Some English clubs, notably Sheffield Wednesday and Liverpool, whose managers have played in Italy, are catching up with diet.

In everything else, skill, fitness, technique communications, presentation, English football still lags behind. And in chairmen too.

RESULTS



Fiorentina's Batistuta (left) in action against Brescia.

Signori.

TOP SCORERS

1 ..... **Van Basten** (Milan) 12
..... **Signori** (Lazio) 12
3 ..... **Balbo** (Udinese) 10
4 ..... **Ganz** (Atalanta) 9

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WEEKEND

BRESCIA 1 (Hagi 47)
FIORENTINA 1 (Orlando 62).
Att: 18,000.

CAGLIARI 0
PARMA 1 (Brolin 73). **Att:** 20,000.

FOGGIA 2 (Biagioni pen 18, Roy 34)
LAZIO 1 (Signori 51). **Att:** 16,000.

MILAN 1 (Lentini 39)
INTER 1 (De Agostini 70). **Att:** 84,500.

PESCARA 2 (Dunga 74, Palladini 83)
ATALANTA 0. **Att:** 16,000.

ROMA 2 (Lupo 10, Carnevale 90)
ANCONA 1 (Comi 67). **Att:** 43,856.

SAMPDORIA 3 (Ziliani o.g.41, Jugovic 60, Mancini pen 78)
NAPOLI 1 (Mannini o.g. 89). **Att:** 35,000.

TORINO 1 (Sordo 57)
JUVENTUS 2 (Vialli 75, Venturin o.g. 90). **Att:** 52,008.

UDINESE 3 (Mattei 51, Balbo 53, 64)
GENOA 0. **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

WEEKEND

ANCONA 0
CAGLIARI 1 (Fircano 13). **Att:** 10,000.

ATALANTA 2 (Montero 4, Ganz 43)
UDINESE 0. **Att:** 20,000.

FOGGIA 1 (Biagioni pen 55)
PESCARA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

GENOA 2 (Signorini 30, Padovano 76)
TORINO 1 (D. Fortunato 32). **Att:** 25,000.

INTER 2 (Berti 23, Battistini 90)
BRESCIA 1 (Giunta 33). **Att:** 45,000.

JUVENTUS 0
MILAN 1 (Simone 69). **Att:** 70,000.

LAZIO 1 (Gascoigne 86)
ROMA 1 (Giannini 48). **Att:** 65,000.

NAPOLI 4 (Policano 19, Zola 43, 87, Careca 90)
FIORENTINA 1 (Di Mauro 34).
Att: 45,000.

PARMA 1 (Asprilla 50)
SAMPDORIA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

WEEKEND

ANCONA 3 (Detari 20, 75, Lupo 83)
INTER 0. **Att:** 19,000.

BRESCIA 2 (Raducioiu 51, 65)
GENOA 2 (Padovano 73, Arco 81).
Att: 13,000.

CAGLIARI 1 (Francescoli 63)
NAPOLI 0. **Att:** 23,000.

FIORENTINA 2 (Laudrup 8, Sartov o.g. 53)
JUVENTUS 0. **Att:** 42,421.

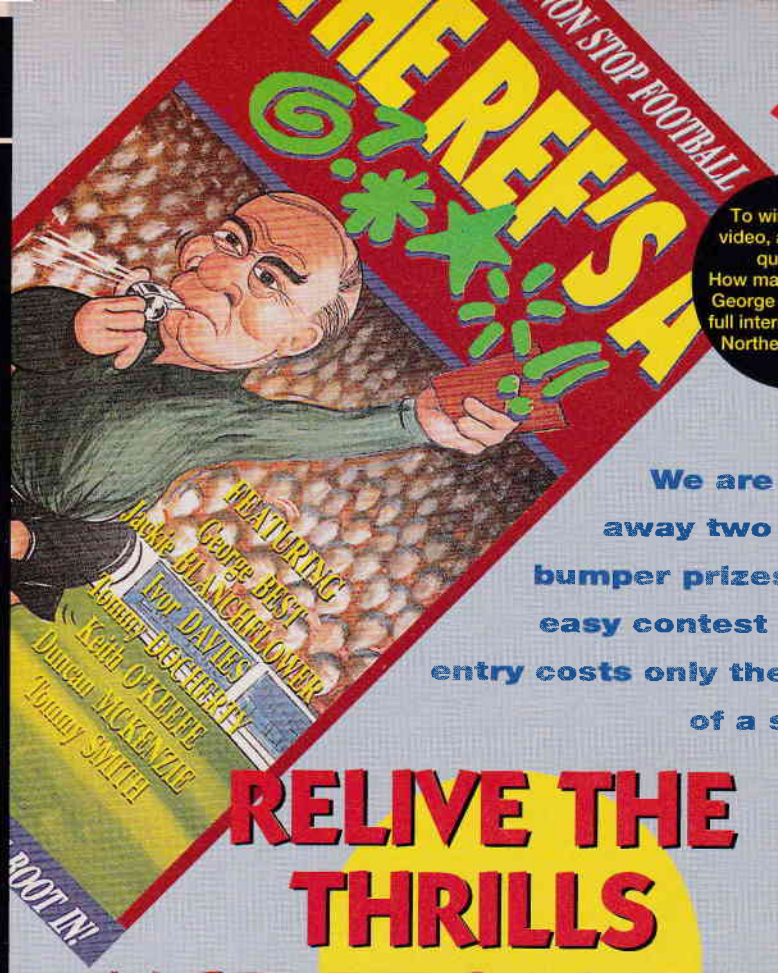
MILAN 1 (Albertini 33)
UDINESE 1 (Balbo 44). **Att:** 73,000.

PESCARA 2 (Borgonovo 46, Allegri 73)
LAZIO 3 (Gascoigne 25, Allegri 73, Luzardi 90). **Att:** 18,000.

ROMA 1 (Rizzitelli 89)
PARMA 0. **Att:**45,392.

SAMPDORIA 2 (Mancini 63, Corini pen 71)
ATLANTA 3 (Ganz 28, 42, Corini pen 71).
Att: 30,000.

TORINO 1 (Silenzi 1)
FOGGIA 1 (Di Biaglo 19). **Att:** 20,000.

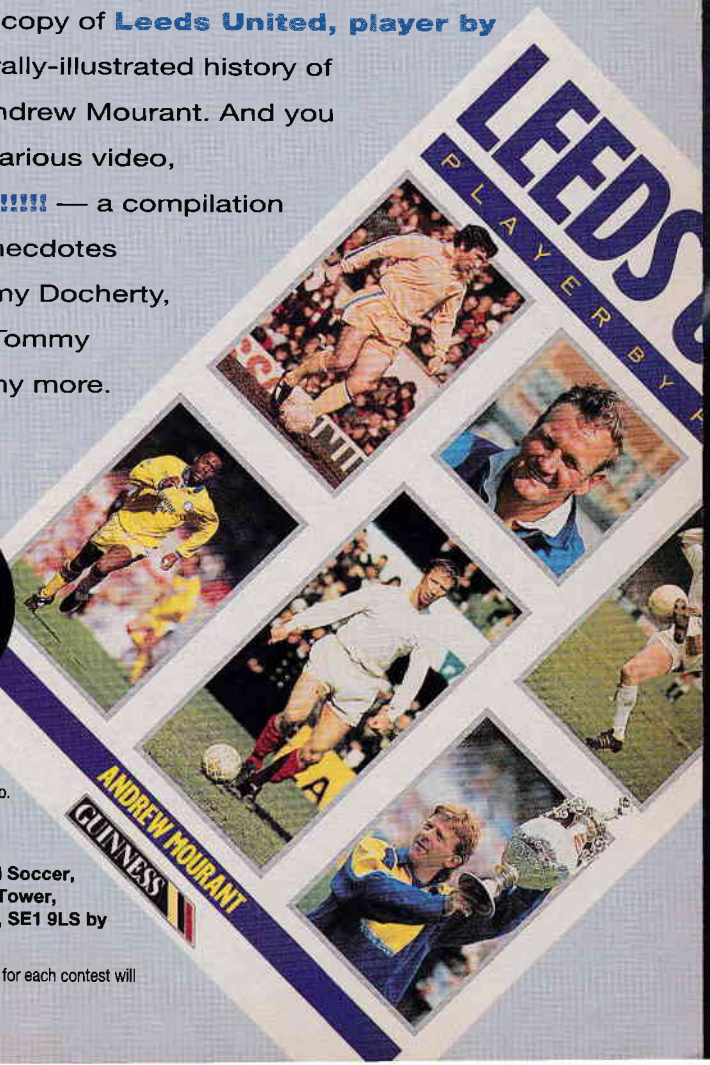


To win the comic video, answer this question:
How many times did George Best play in full internationals for Northern Ireland?

We are giving away two dozen bumper prizes in an easy contest — and entry costs only the price of a stamp.

RELIVE THE THRILLS AND RECALL THE LAUGHS

You can win a copy of **Leeds United, player by player**, a liberally-illustrated history of the club, by Andrew Mourant. And you can win the hilarious video, **The Ref's a !!!!!!** — a compilation of gags and anecdotes featuring Tommy Docherty, George Best, Tommy Smith and many more.

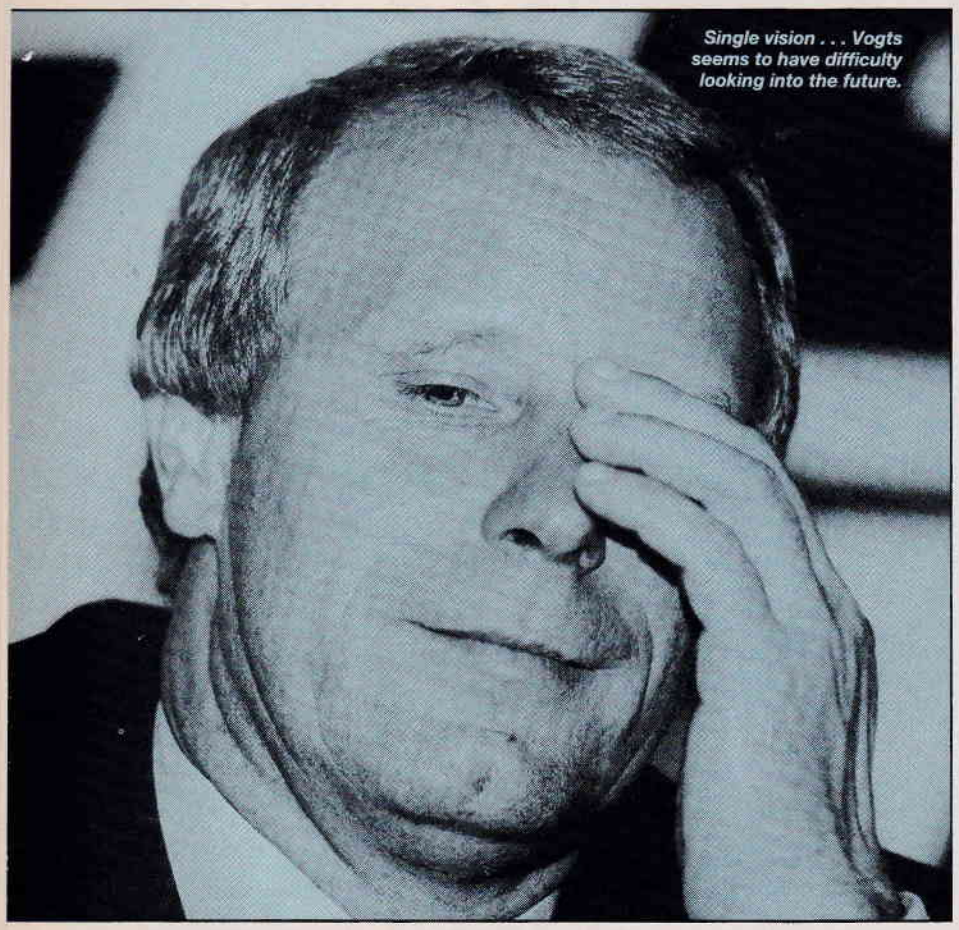


To win the Leeds book answer this question:
How many former Arsenal players were in the Leeds squad at the start of this season?

You can, of course, enter both contests if you want to do so.

Send your replies on a *POSTCARD* to:
WS Leeds/Laughs, World Soccer, 25th Floor, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS by February 4, 1993.

The first 12 correct entries drawn for each contest will win either a book or a video.
Usual IPC competition rules apply.



Single vision . . . Vogts seems to have difficulty looking into the future.

Vogts must

Coach in trouble with the fans

THE German Football Federation have been inundated with calls from irate fans demanding the sacking of national team manager Berti Vogts.

Two successive home draws against modest opposition, Mexico and Austria, upset a public used to success from the national side.

According to a poll organised by the mass-circulation newspaper *Bild-Zeitun*, 85 per cent of the fans want Vogts to be replaced now. But his dwindling supporters claim that the voting was not representative of general opinion, because the readership is recruited from a particular section of society weaned on sensationalism, scandal and persecution of celebrities.

The DFB are unlikely to bow to this pressure, so Vogts will remain in charge.

A spokesman for the governing body insisted: "Berti has a contract till 1994 which includes the next World Cup. We are not in the business of sacking managers."

The Germans have had only five before now, and none was suddenly dismissed: Otto Nerz (1933-36); Sepp Herberger (1936-64), Helmut Schoen (1964-78), Jupp Derwall (1978-84) and Franz Beckenbauer (1984-90).

Of those, only Nerz and Derwall had their contracts terminated prematurely, but by amicable mutual agreement. Herberger and Schoen retired through age, while Beckenbauer did not renew his contract due to his new commercial ventures.

Vogts took over from him after the victorious World Cup two years ago. In his defence,

SAMMER KEEPS EVERYONE GUESSING

GERMAN manager Berti Vogts has left no doubt how he regards the voracious appetite of Italian clubs who sweep down each year on the Bundesliga.

Vogts believes that playing in Italy causes more harm than good. If he had his way the Italians would not only be barred from over-stocking on imports, they also would have the frontiers shut in their face.

But Vogts also knows that this is a vain hope. The international transfer market is part and parcel of the modern game and a key feature in its commerce. That does not stop Vogts from frowning each time he hears another whisper in the direction of yet another member of his national squad.

Vogts might point to a string of disappointments — players who have been distracted from their day-to-day club and international duties by the pressures involved in flying south. Mathias Sammer, for example.

Back in May, the knee injury which had brought the marvellous career of Lothar Matthaus to a full stop seemed to be a blessing for Sammer, the former East German international then with Stuttgart.

Internazionale saw him as the obvious replacement for midfield general Matthaus. Germany thought he was the one man with the talent and drive to step into Matthaus's boots for the European Championship assault in June.

Inter had first made contact with Sammer and Stuttgart back in 1991. They had wanted him then and there. The trouble was, the import they wanted him to replace, Andy Brehme, would not go. Not only that, Matthaus and Inter's third German, Jurgen Klinsmann, stood shoulder to shoulder with Brehme.

In the end the only man who left was the technical director, Pietro Giuliani, who had tried to arrange the transfer.

Inter's disappointing season, however, has proved that Giuliani was right in wanting to rebuild. A year had been wasted. A year in which Inter, last year's UEFA Cup winners, were quickly tipped out of Europe and in which they failed to make any domestic impression, overshadowed by neighbours Milan.

This past summer Inter moved decisively. Brehme and Klinsmann went, the injured Matthaus was put on ice, and strikers Darko Pancev (Yugoslavia) and Ruben Sosa (Uruguay) came in, with Sammer to create the chances.

Hansi Muller, a fellow German who was a San Siro favourite a decade ago, had no doubt Sammer will be a success. Muller said: "Sammer made all the difference at Stuttgart, turning them from a reasonable team into championship challengers. He can do the same for Inter."

Sammer is the seventh German to join Inter, after Horst Szymaniak in the 1960s, Muller and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge in the early 1980s, then Matthaus, Brehme and Klinsmann. He also was the least experienced on signing — as well as perhaps the most intriguing.

Sammer's father, Klaus, was a midfielder with Dynamo Dresden and East Germany. He had barely retired before his son was making his own reputation with Dresden and DDR.

In 1986 young Sammer guided East Germany to the European youth title. He was promoted almost immediately into the senior national squad, won the East German championship in 1989 and the league and cup double in 1990.

That summer, too, with the collapse of the Berlin Wall, he was signed by Stuttgart . . . and in his newly adopted home of the Neckarstadion he became, the following December, the first East German to play for the unified Germany, in a 4-0 defeat of Switzerland.

National boss Berti Vogts was pleased and Sammer held his place. But Vogts was not impressed in September last year when Sammer pulled out of the prestige friendly against England at Wembley because of injury . . . yet lined up the following weekend for Stuttgart

Suddenly Sammer was no longer first choice. Last spring he was dropped from the squad altogether. Only Matthaus's injury offered him a way back.

Sammer has arrogance on the pitch and off it. He said: "A European Championship without Germany would be like a swimming pool without water. Similarly, a German national team without me would be just the same."

Ironically, the man selling Sammer to Inter — Stuttgart's politician-president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder — had been a vociferous opponent of the use of exported talent in the national team. But, as Mayer-Vorfelder admitted, he is also a businessman. The price was right for the "new Matthaus."

Not that the comparison worried Sammer as he approached both his transfer to Inter and the finals of the European Championship. He said: "Lothar gave me the most help when I was first selected for the national team. He's had a great career. I'm sure it's not over yet." How right he was.

Sammer was a comparative flop in Sweden. Vogts took him off at half-time in the Final. Hardly the best send-off on his way to Inter, and he has not played for Germany since.

Yet Sammer is slowly finding his feet in Italy.

He has proved a more dependable marksman than either Sosa or the vastly disappointing Pancev. He has a long way to go yet, of course. But if he does come through the baptism by Italian fire nobody, surely, will be more delighted than Berti Vogts.

KEIR **RADNEDGE**

PRO-FILE

MATTHIAS **SAMMER**

INTERNAZIONALE AND GERMANY

Born: September 5, 1967.

Previous clubs: Dynamo Dresden, VfB Stuttgart.

International caps: 23 for East Germany, 11 for Germany.

go!

experts point out that German players rarely put in 100 per cent effort when there is nothing at stake and subsequently often look bad even against moderate opposition.

Besides, a number of his players are having problems with their Italian clubs. Most have hired more than the permitted quota of foreigners, so that some of the Germans were being left out and this has affected their morale as well as their form.

In the Bundesliga Bayern Munich were holding off their nearest challengers, especially Eintracht Frankfurt and Werder Bremen, both also DFB Cup quarter-finalists.

Bayern, who have the most expensive squad in the League, have problems with keeping players who cannot command a regular place happy.

This includes versatile defender Thomas Berthold, who is 28, gained 49 caps and was a member of the World Cup squad; he played in every match at Italia '90.

Berthold joined Bayern last year from AS Roma for £1.2 million. He was to have played libero, but lost his place and has not been selected since.

There is no reserve team football in Germany, so he is resigned watching.

"I am not the lazy type thinking only of money," he complains at the media treatment which is damaging his reputation. "My career has taken a turn for the worse, but I would prefer to remain in Germany."

That is why he would not accept an offer from Manchester City, he claims.

The managers are having their own problems. Out of the 18 in the Bundesliga no fewer than 13 will be at the end of their contract next June.

Stuttgart's Christoph Daum, the man who did not read the "foreigners" rule and thus contributed to the club's demise in the Champions' Cup, is likely to leave. Koln's Jorg Berger and Saarbrucken's Peter Neururer also are not expected to have their agreements renewed.

Neururer had problems with Stefan Beckenbauer, at 24 the youngest of three sons of "the Kaiser." Stefan too plays in defence, but does not want to be compared with his illustrious father. "I intend to make my own way in football" he insists.

After starting with Bayern, he played for local rivals 1860 Munich, then for Kickers Offenbach and modest FC Grenchen in Switzerland on his dad's recommendation.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	16	9	6	1	35	20	24
Ein. Frankfurt	16	8	7	1	29	16	23
Werder Bremen	16	8	6	2	26	16	22
Karlsruhe	16	9	3	4	36	28	21
Leverkusen	16	6	7	3	33	19	19
Bor. Dortmund	16	8	3	5	31	24	19
VfB Stuttgart	16	6	6	4	24	23	18
Kaiserslautern	16	7	2	7	26	19	16
Dyn. Dresden	16	5	6	5	20	22	16
Nurnberg	16	6	3	7	15	19	15
Schalke	16	5	5	6	17	22	15
Hamburg	16	3	8	5	19	20	14
Saarbrucken	16	4	6	6	23	29	14
Borussia Mg	16	3	6	7	20	31	12
Koln	16	5	1	10	18	27	11
Uerdingen	16	3	5	8	16	31	11
Wattenscheid	16	3	4	9	23	35	10
Bochum	16	1	6	9	18	28	8

Double trouble . . . Sammer without a leg to stand on after a tackle by Joachim Nilssen.

RESULTS

Action . . . Karlsruhe's Kiriakov against Bayern's Helmer.

TOP SCORERS

1 ..... **F. Walter** (Stuttgart) 9
..... **Yeboah** (Eintracht Frankfurt) 9
3 ..... **U. Wegmann** (VfL Bochum) 8
..... **Kirsten** (Bayer Leverkusen) 8
..... **Thom** (Bayer Leverkusen) 8
..... **Krieg** (Karlsruher SC) 8
..... **Wynalda** (Saarbrucken) 8

Wynalda.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WEEKEND

SAARBRUCKEN 0
HAMBURG 3 (Schnoor 23, Baron 54, 87). **Att:** 26,000.

BOCHUM 2 (Reekers 53, Dressel 89)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 2 (Stevic 17, 35). **Att:** 12,000.

NURNBERG 2 (Olivares 50, Eckstein 73)
WATTENSCHEID 1 (Emmerling 30). **Att:** 22,300.

STUTTGART 1 (F. Walter 85)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0
Att: 32,000.

UERDINGEN 0
KAISERSLAUTERN 5 (Hotic 28, Goldbaek 31, Witeczek 40, 54, Marin 56). **Att:** 9,800.

SCHALKE 0
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0
Att: 51,600.

KARLSRUHE 3 (Rudy o.g. 16, Kiriakov 17, Bender 55)
KOLN 1 (H. Fuchs 77). **Att:** 18,000.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 2 (Scholz 11, Thom 87)
BAYERN MUNICH 4 (Ziege 58, Matthaus 69, Wouters 75, Labbadia 88). **Att:** 26,500.

WERDER BREMEN 2 (M. Bode 62, A. Herzog 64)
BORUSSIA MG 0. **Att:** 18,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

WEEKEND

WATTENSCHEID 1 (Sane 76)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 3 (Fischer 5, Hapal 56, Worns 88). **Att:** 5,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Maucksch pen 37)
SCHALKE 0. **Att:** 15,000.

WERDER BREMEN 2 (Rufer pen 60, Kohn 86)
SAARBRUCKEN 0. **Att:** 18,081.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Schmitt 17)
BAYER UERDINGEN 0. **Att:** 12,500.

KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Marin 34, Witeczek 44)
HAMBURG 2 (Sporl 34, Van Heesen 79). **Att:** 29,000.

BORUSSIA MG 4 (Lusch 49, Zorc pen 74, K. Reinhardt 89, Chapuisat 90)
NURNBERG 2 (Eckstein 15, Kramny 63). **Att:** 38,262.

BAYERN MUNICH 3 (Mazinho 13, Kahn o.g. 21, Matthaus 71)
KARLSRUHE 3 (Simarov 35, Kreuzer o.g. 41, Schuttende 84). **Att:** 37,000.

KOLN 1 (Greiner 26)
BOCHUM 0. **Att:** 18,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

MIDWEEK

CUP — QUARTER-FINAL

CARL ZEISS JENA 0
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 2

CHEMNITZ 2
WERDER BREMEN 1
after extra time

HERTHA BSC 2
FC NURNBERG 2

KARLSRUHER 1
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1
Franfurt win on penalties

WEEKEND

BAYER UERDINGEN 1 (Gortukowitsch 38)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Jahnig 68). **Att:** 9,600.

HAMBURG 0
WERDER BREMEN 0
Att: 46,000.

KARLSRUHE 2 (Krieg 26, Simarov 47)
WATTENSCHEID 1 (Metz o.g. 84). **Att:** 13,500.

VFB STUTTGART 2 (Knup 25, F. Walter 31)
SAARBRUCKEN 2 (Lange 35, Kostner 63). **Att:** 18,000.

KAISERSLAUTERN 0
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Rahn 37, D. Roth 88). **Att:** 38,000.

BOCHUM 2 (U. Wegmann 1, 71)
BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Labbadia 47, Matthaus 89). **Att:** 38,000.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 3 (Kirsten 2, 70, Kree pen 86)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 3 (Sippel 16, 49, Poschner 45). **Att:** 22,600.

NURNBERG 0
BORUSSIA MG 1 (Pilipsen 52). **Att:** 27,000.

SCHALKE 1 (Mihajlovic 23)
KOLN 0. **Att:** 30,100.

Bebeto

Little big man with big plans for little La Coruna

SPAIN'S transfer of the year was the £1.2million capture, by Deportivo La Coruna, of Brazil striker Bebeto. The impetus provided by his arrival — when far more fashionable clubs had long envied his talents — was immediate. La Coruna shot to the front of the pack early in the league season and, while the initial gloss and success has worn off, Bebeto remains a star attraction home and away.

BY LUIS **TIMIRAOS**/ESM

WS: Why did you sign for La Coruna when Italian, German, French and bigger Spanish clubs have pursued you for so long?
BEBETO: What mattered most was how my family would adjust to a new life. If I were being purely professional then I would have accepted the offer I had from Borussia Dortmund, because they were in the UEFA Cup. But I knew my children and my wife wouldn't like the winter weather in Germany and wouldn't feel at home in the city. That's why I chose La Coruna and I've no regrets. I love the place. It's like a little Rio.

WS: Weren't you worried because La Coruna had struggled to escape relegation last season?
BEBETO: I knew about all that. In fact, La Coruna made their first approach before the end of last season so I kept a careful eye on their progress. If they hadn't stayed up, I wouldn't have signed. You know, I've spent all my career playing with top-flight clubs in Brazil such as Flamengo and Vasco da Gama. I'm used to chasing success and I had no wish to lower my sights. But La Coruna's president explained his plans, told me about the other players he intended buying and his immediate ambition to earn a place in next season's UEFA Cup.

WS: Did the fact that La Coruna had already signed Mauro Silva, a fellow Brazilian international, influence your decision?
BEBETO: It was very important. Mauro Silva phoned to tell me all about the club and that certainly helped me.

WS: Did it worry you that the last Brazilian at La Coruna, Dinho, proved a disastrous signing?
BEBETO: No. That wasn't a problem for Mauro Silva or me. Our aim is to lift La Coruna to the sort of status the club deserves. That's all that worries us. What happened to Dinho is history for the club, not for us. I never even spoke to him about it because he plays now in Recife.

WS: Are your team-mates as good as you hoped?
BEBETO: Better. In fact, I was pleasurably surprised. We have terrific team spirit and a lot of individual players you'll hear plenty more about this season.

WS: The media has been full of "EuroDeportivo" — don't you think the publicity has been over the top?
BEBETO: No. I came here to be successful. As long as we work hard, keep our feet on the ground, we'll be all right. No promises. All we guarantee is that we'll work and work and work. The only thing I asked the fans was patience on the occasions when things didn't go our way. But so far this season, those occasions have been few and far between.

WS: Was it difficult to adapt to Spanish football from the Brazilian game?
BEBETO: I haven't changed my style. I play the same way I did back home. My football is like Barcelona's: speed and skill. I think that's European enough, don't you?

WS: Which teams do you like best in Spain?
BEBETO: I like Barcelona best. I like the pace in their game and their great players like Koeman and Stoichkov. I'd always cross the road to watch Barsa!

WS: What state is Brazilian football in now?
BEBETO: A state of transition. Carlos Alberto Parreira, our national coach, is working hard to rebuild the team. He wants to go back to basics, to play the real Brazilian football, with all the skill people expect but incorporating all the important aspects of the modern game, such as marking and defending.

WS: But the star players are still the same ones as at the last World Cup — Careca, Romario, and so on?
BEBETO: But a new generation of young stars is breaking through. Players like Rai, Luiz Henrique and Antonio Carlos of Albacete. They're all going to be world famous.

WS: Tele Santana, who was Brazil's World Cup manager in 1982 and 1986, says you are one of the best forwards in the world. Do you find such praise a heavy responsibility?
BEBETO: Long ago I got used to carrying everybody's hopes and dreams. I don't think anything's changed just because I've transferred to Spain. I've always been my hardest taskmaster.

PRO-FILE

BEBETO

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA AND BRAZIL

Full name: Jose Roberto da Gama de Oliveira.

Born: February 16, 1964.

Clubs: Vitoria, Flamengo, Vasco da Gama.

International caps: 55 (17 goals).

HONOURS

Libertadores Cup: 1989.

Rio championship: 1986.

Brazilian championship: 1989.

South American Footballer of the Year: 1989.

IN Spanish homes the traditional Yuletide dessert consists of sipping cava and eating turrones, whose basic, time-honoured ingredients are honey and ground almonds.

Turrones also are the ingredients for one of Spanish soccer's time-honoured cliches. Amid the raised eyebrows and the derisive sniffs which greet the appointment of many a new manager, out comes the old axiom "he'll never eat the turrones" — meaning that the new man is likely to send change-of-address cards before his Christmas cards.

Given the volatile nature of Spanish soccer, this year's survival rate has been exceptional. Benito Floro has been consistently under fire at Real Madrid because second is not good enough, and Guus Hiddink is again under the cosh because pre-season predictions had Valencia as firm candidates for the title,

Valencia's Giner . . . back after injury.

Sweet survival

New coaches cling on despite critics

and he now has to read out a report in the boardroom every Monday.

Hiddink has been unlucky. Giner, one of the best markers in the country, has only just re-emerged after long-term injury; Roberto and Fernando have fallen below their international best due to injuries and fierce local criticism; Penev has been intermittent; and Belodedic has failed to adapt.

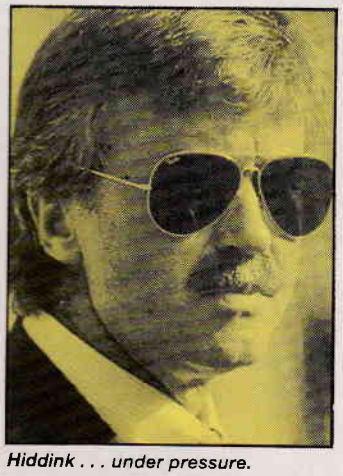
John Toshack's track record has given him sound insurance against Real Sociedad's very poor campaign and Carlos Bilardo's international reputation has given him margin for error at Sevilla.

But the newcomers have been in the firing squad sights, namely Jupp Heynckes at Bilbao, Bert Jacobs at Gijon and Theo Vonk at Burgos.

Given the limitations of their workforce, few honestly expected them to be scrapping for the title. Europe was the brief for the first two, survival for the third.

Heynckes, curiously, has won more acclaim for his work outside Bilbao than among the San Mames faithful. His aim has been to kick the British-style long-ball game into touch, and he has now converted Athletic into a more patient, ball-playing outfit.

The fair-haired midfielder Julen Guerrero, 19 this month, is one of the outstanding talents of the season.



Hiddink . . . under pressure.

Fans used to direct football have not unanimously enthused about the new style, and protested when Heynckes opted to rest five first-teamers for the Cup game against Jerez of Division 2B, who won.

For many critics, however, Athletic's basic failing has not been playing style but limp away form. This was why the recent match in Gijon was regaded as something of a turning point.

Jupp's "Lions" produced an epic performance, rounded off by Guerrero's final goal in a 4-0 win.

The game was a major shock for another import, Bert Jacobs. That week he had opened negotiations for an extension of his contract with Sporting, and nothing had hinted at such a huge setback.

Jacobs had arrived from Holland with the modest record of taking Vitesse Arnhem from the Second Division into Europe.

He refers to his young side as "the Army team" because so many players are doing their military service.

Fellow Dutchman Theo Vonk was always the least likely to indulge his sweet tooth on the turrones. Since climbing out of the Second Division three years ago, Burgos have based survival on safety, with a special preference for 0-0.

Vonk lasted almost to Christmas, and then the axe fell, as it did on David Vidal of Logrones.

A former Burgos coach, Jose Manuel Diaz Novoa, has been on a knife-edge since taking over at Espanol.

The "Budgies" have been extremely erratic and Novoa has been criticised for making wholesale changes. The most painful blow came in the local derby, when Espanol were humiliated 5-0 by Barcelona.

GRAHAM **TURNER**

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	13	9	3	1	37	12	21
Dep. La Coruna	13	8	3	2	21	11	19
Atletico Madrid	13	8	3	2	26	17	19
Real Madrid	13	8	2	3	24	11	18
Athletic Bilbao	13	7	2	4	23	15	16
Sevilla	13	6	4	3	20	17	16
Valencia	13	5	5	3	15	11	15
Sporting Gijon	13	5	5	3	13	13	15
Rayo Vallecano	13	5	4	4	17	15	14
Zaragoza	13	3	7	3	13	17	13
Osasuna	13	4	4	5	18	15	12
Tenerife	13	3	6	4	18	17	12
Espanol	13	4	4	5	20	23	12
Celta	13	4	4	5	7	12	12
Oviedo	13	2	5	6	14	19	9
Albacete	13	3	2	8	19	26	8
Real Sociedad	13	3	2	8	15	23	8
Cadiz	13	1	6	6	9	21	8
Burgos	13	2	4	7	12	29	8
Logrones	13	1	3	9	9	26	5

Zamorano

TOP SCORERS

1 **Stoichkov** (Barcelona) 15
2 **Bebeto** (La Coruna) 9
.. **Ciganda** (Athletic Bilbao) 9
4 **Zamorano** (Real Madrid) 7
.. **Beguiristain** (Barcelona) 7

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WEEKEND

CADIZ 1 (Oliva 49)
REAL MADRID 1 (Milla 65).
Att: 15,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Pardeza pen 65)
BARCELONA 6 (Koeman 23, 25 pen, Beguiristain 43, 45, Stoichkov 50, 67).
Att: 40,000.

CELTA 1 (Gudelj 3)
SEVILLA 2 (Maradona 6, Bango 9).
Att: 22,000.

VALENCIA 1 (Miguel 18)
OSASUNA 0. **Att:** 6,000.

OVIEDO 2 (Lacatus 41, Carlos 89)
REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Kodro 27, Imanol 49). **Att:** 17,500.

ESPANOL 0
TENERIFE 0. **Att:** 24,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Valverde 17)
BURGOS 1 (Boerebach 81). **Att:** 38,000.

LOGRONES 1 (Abadia pen 49)
SPORTING GIJON 2 (Cela 5, 17).
Att: 9,000.

VALENCIA 2 (Penev 56, 79)
ALBACETE 0. **Att:** 48,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Juanito 26, 51)
LA CORUNA 1 (Bebeto 82). **Att:** 40,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

WEEKEND

BARCELONA 5 (Stoichkov 30, Nadal 38, Koeman pen 57, Witschge 72, Beguistain 77)
ESPANOL 0. **Att:** 90,000.

SEVILLA 1 (Suker 12)
ATLETIC MADRID 3 (Luis Garcia 14, pen 26, Manolo 81). **Att:** 50,000.

OSASUNA 3 (Larrainzar 44, Kosecki 58, Aquilla 90)
CELTA 0. **Att:** 11,600.

REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Kodro 53)
RAYO VALLECANO 2 (Polster 55, Calderon 83). **Att:** 13,000.

REAL MADRID 3 (Hierro 30, Jerkan o.g. 49, Milla 81)
OVIEDO 2 (Berto 21, Carlos 67).
Att: 90,000.

TENERIFE 1 (Pier 17)
CADIZ 1 (Fali 23). **Att:** 16,000.

BURGOS 1 (Joseba Aquirre 24)
REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Gay 86).
Att: 10,000.

GIJON 0
ATHLETIC BILBAO 4 (Valverde 11, Garitano 33, Ciganda 43, Guerrero 66).
Att: 17,500.

ALBACETE 3 (Chesa 47, Antonio 65, Geli 84)
LOGRONES 1 (Lindo 59). **Att:** 11,000.

LA CORUNA 0
VALENCIA 0. **Att:** 22,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

MIDWEEK

CUP — 4TH ROUND

ALCAZAR 0
SEVILLA 2

JAEN 0
LOGRONES 0

EXTREMADURA 5
CADIZ 1

VILLAREAL 1
ESPANOL 2

MARBELLA 1
OSASUNA 3

REAL VALLADOLID 1
REAL BURGOS 1

SANTANDER 1
REAL OVIEDO 5

WEEKEND

REAL ZARAGOZA 2. (Poyet 36)
GIJON 1 (Manjarin 89). **Att:** 35,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Manolo 19)
VALENCIA 1 (Fernando 32).
Att: 15,000.

SEVILLA 0
OSASUNA 0. **Att:** 45,000.

CELTA 2 (Bursac 13, 72)
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Oceano 32).
Att: 15,000.

VALENCIA 2 (Pedro Plesco 8, Polsier 23)
REAL MADRID 0. **Att:** 18,000.

OVIEDO 1 (Jankovic 82)
TENERIFE 2 (Mata 23, Pier 90).
Att: 17,000.

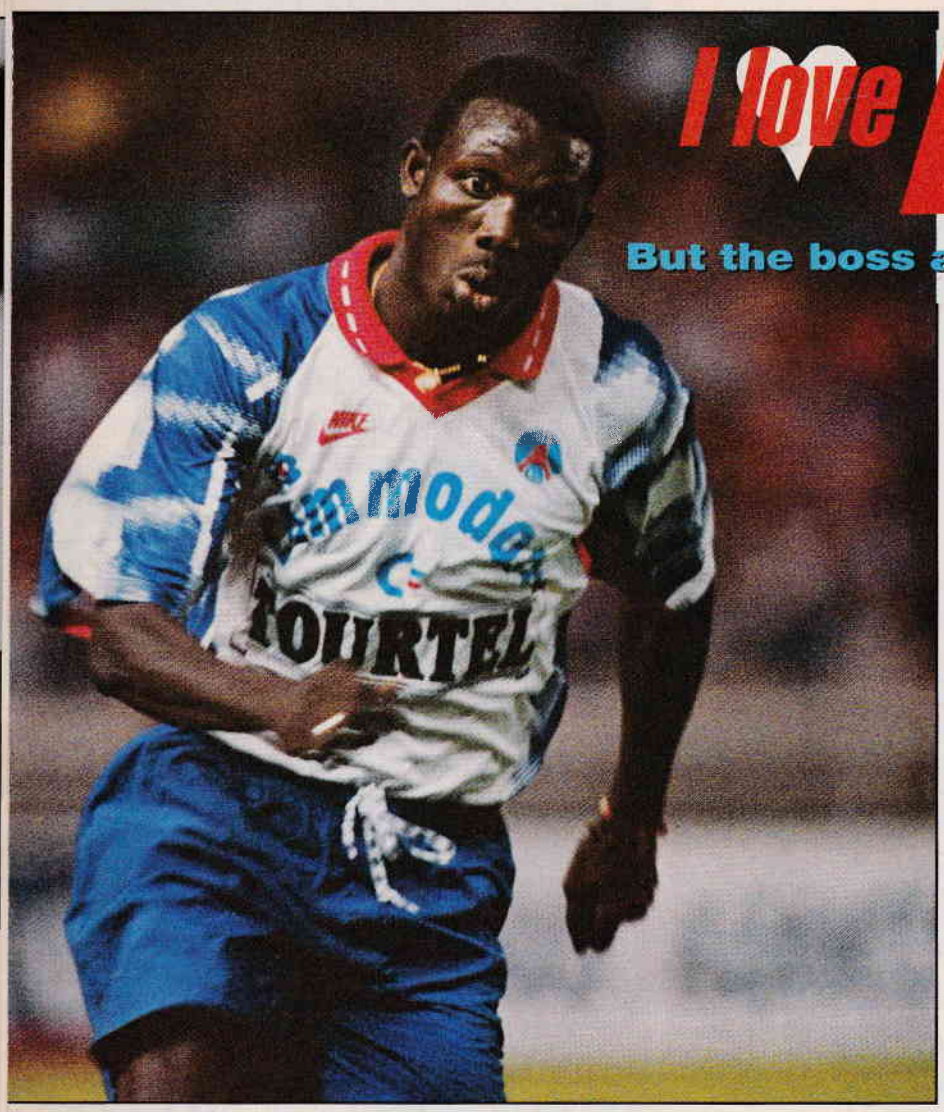
CADIZ 0
BARCELONA 4 (Stoichkov 13, 40, Golcoechea 78, Laurdrup 81). **Att:** 20,000.

ESPANOL 3 (Mino 2, Kornejev 84, 90)
BURGOS 1 (Boerebach 58). **Att:** 25,000.

ATLETIC BILBAO 3 (Valverde 29, Ciganda 69, Guerrero 90)
ALBACETE 1 (Antonio 1). **Att:** 40,000.

LOGRONES 0
LA CORUNA 3 (Claudio 55, 90, Bebeto 75). **Att:** 10,000.

Action as Sevilla's Diego Maradona (right) takes on a Cadiz defender.



I love Paris

But the boss and I don't get on too well

GEORGE WEAH, one of the leading Africans playing in Europe, in conversation with **ANDREW CONRADI**

WS: You must be one of the best players in the world who is unlikely ever to play in the World Cup finals. Does this worry you?

GW: This is probably the biggest disappointment in my career. Perhaps one day FIFA will change the rules and allow people to play for different countries. But I doubt it will happen. Anyway, Liberia is not one of the better African nations.

WS: What are the problems with football back home?

GW: The enthusiasm is there. Football is the top sport but the facilities are not good, and nor are the development programmes.

WS: Do you still go home to visit your family as regularly as you used to?

GW: Sadly not. I used to go back at every vacation. But because of the civil war I have only been back once in two years and that was recently for an African Nations' Cup game against Tanzania.

WS: What was the reaction?

GW: Absolutely incredible. There were 20,000 at the airport. I could hardly get out of the plane. Another 50,000 turned up at the game. I felt really humble. It really reminded me of my roots.

WS: Your son and daughter are joining you soon in Paris but they have been studying in New York. Why?

GW: We Liberians like England and I wanted the children to be brought up speaking English. Hopefully they will go to international school when they come here. I call them each and every day and I'm already getting their bedroom together.

Good old Goethals

Still dangerous . . . Voller scores for Marseille against Rangers

WHEN Marseille drew that remarkable game at Ibrox, 2-2 against Rangers, Jackie Charlton predicted a Milan-Marseille final. Perhaps.

Clearly one of the most fascinating aspects of such a game would be Jean-Pierre Papin's appearance for Milan against Marseille. We can only guess whether that would happen, given the number of foreigners at Milan's disposal.

But certainly Marseille's form in Glasgow's rain belied a long series of dull results in France, and suggested that what the amazing Raymond Goethals has done once, he can do again.

The ever contentious, ever controversial, ever abrasive Bernard Tapie has this penchant for bringing in young, untried coaches, then having to replace them with Uncle Raymond, now in his 70s. Age does not wither his amazing capacity for getting the best out of his players.

If the defence looked so solid till the last quarter-hour, a tyro goalkeeper perhaps excepted, if the midfield competed so strongly in conditions which hardly suited any visiting team — the foul weather, the impassioned crowd — Goethals should take much credit.

Poor Mozer, at that time busily defending himself against monstrously false charges of having AIDS, might have made the defence still stronger. But Casoni and the ever ruthless Boli were no pushovers.

Letting Papin, Waddle and Steven go in the close season was always going to be a gamble. Martin Vazquez has come and gone, as has Omam Biyik, while Jean-Marc Ferreri made no impact. Other transfers, however, have turned out better.

Rudi Voller, for example. He showed in Glasgow that though he has retired from internationals, he remains a deadly opportunist, nutmegging a defender to set

WS: Like all top footballers, you are obviously highly paid. But you have a reputation of never flouting your new-found wealth. How come?

GW: I remember only too well growing up in Liberia playing football with nothing more than an orange as a ball. I also remember only having one pair of shoes. These sort of memories prevent you from getting big-headed.

WS: You have spoken a lot about the influence of playing with the Brazilians, Ricardo and Valdo, at Paris St. Germain. Why is this a source of such enjoyment to you?

GW: Firstly, they are very gifted players and we are good friends off the field as well as on. But you have to understand that in my country, Brazilian football is hugely popular. When France beat them in the last World Cup, Liberians were crying in the streets. They are almost as popular as our own national team.

WS: On the subject of your manager at Paris St. Germain, Artur Jorge, is it true that you don't get on with him as well as you used to with Arsene Wenger at Monaco before your transfer during the summer? Jorge, for instance, accused you of being inconsistent, while recognising that you are an essential part of the team.

GW: I can accept criticism but there is a limit when you are humiliated in public. He doesn't like me or appreciate me as a person and criticises me all the time when things go wrong. But I can't perform miracles. Before our UEFA Cup game against Napoli, he said in the dressing room that he hoped I wouldn't keep falling down and only touch the ball twice in the entire match. It was a direct reference to our previous League game which we lost and in which I had played badly. When we lose, I seem to get the blame. He takes advantage of me because I don't talk much. It was never like that at Monaco. If I did something wrong, a quiet word was said in private. I do my best for every team I play for and Mr. Jorge should know that.

WS: Are you saying you would leave Paris St. Germain?

GW: I hope it will not come to that because I love the city and the fans. But things will have to improve between me and the manager.

WS: Finally, what are your main interests outside soccer?

GW: I love music, mainly Bob Marley. He is my hero. He was a symbol of all oppressed people. I don't go into the city that much. I prefer to relax at home. I'm not a great one for socialising. I've just built a gymnasium in my basement where I can work out, which gives me a lot of pleasure.

up the first goal, exploiting the inexperience of young Pressley to pounce on a back pass of sorts to score the second.

The Croatian, Alen Boksic, got the other, followed by two in the 3-0 win over Club Brugge, and seems to enjoy these European games. Not a player in the category, or commanding the price, of Voller, but a useful investment just the same.

The Ghanaian Marcel Desailly, after an uneasy beginning in defence, when he did not seem to know if he was fish or fowl, appears to have settled down.

Paris Saint-Germain, who caught a Tartar in the first leg of their UEFA Cup tie against Anderlecht, have just given new contracts to their Brazilians, midfielder Valdo and central defender Ricardo. But they must be equally pleased with the lively, consistent form of their midfielder, Vincent Guerin.

He is playing so well that his manager, Artur Jorge is not the only one who wonders why he does not get a call to the French colours, especially after such displays as the laborious win over Finland.

Guerin, who says Jorge is psychologically a huge help to him and to the other players, is just turned 27 and is now with his fourth League club.

Things have been going better for William Prunier (below), the Auxerre centre-back, both in the Championship and the UEFA Cup.

He, too, at 25, has his sights on the national team, asserting that he has not had much luck in the past. Injury to a knee afflicted him immediately after he was first picked.

When he did play, in a team beaten 2-0, he feels he was made the scapegoat: "There were 11 of us on the field."

Prunier has spent his whole career with Auxerre, making his debut as a teenager. We may not have heard the last of him as an international.

Nantes, the surprise packet of the season, the club pulled back from the brink and inspired by their old manager, Suaudeau, have some interesting new faces, not least that of the cheerful, 21-year-old left winger, Reynald Pedros.

"I am super shy," he says, when accused of being arrogant. "I just want to share my happiness with the people I like, that's all."

He has waited quite a while on the sidelines to win his place, learning, he says, by watching. Now, whenever he takes the field, he has not the slightest doubt that he is going to do well.

ANDRE **DUCLOS**

RESULTS

N'Doram

TOP SCORERS

1 . **Gravelaine** (Caen) 12
2 . **Weah** (Paris SG) 10
3 . **N'Doram** (Nantes) 8
... **Klinsmann** (Monaco) 6
... **Leboeuf** (Strasbourg) 5

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	17	9	6	2	34	13	24
Nantes	17	9	6	2	34	16	24
Monaco	17	10	3	4	27	14	23
Auxerre	17	9	4	4	29	16	22
Marseille	16	7	7	2	24	17	21
Bordeaux	17	8	4	5	19	15	20
Strasbourg	17	5	9	3	29	25	19
Saint-Etienne	17	7	4	6	16	14	18
Montpellier	17	7	4	6	18	17	18
Sochaux	17	6	5	6	15	27	17
Lyon	17	2	12	3	16	18	16
Caen	17	5	5	7	24	23	15
Le Havre	17	4	7	6	17	21	15
Metz	17	3	8	6	20	24	14
Toulouse	17	2	9	6	15	22	13
Lens	17	3	7	7	16	27	13
Valenciennes	17	3	6	8	19	26	12
Nimes	17	2	8	7	17	27	12
Toulon	17	2	7	8	10	22	11
Lille	16	3	5	8	5	20	11

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WEEKEND

STRASBOURG 2 (Leboeuf pen 64, Etame 85)
MARSEILLE 2 (Boksic 17, Sauzee 49). **Att:** 37,536.

LYON 2 (Gava 25)
LE HAVRE 1 (Guruli 74). **Att:** 11,395.

METZ 3 (Kubik 15, Huysman 50, Chanlot 90)
NIMES 0. **Att:** 7,572.

TOULOUSE 1 (Bancarel 75)
TOULON 1 (Meyrieu 86). **Att:** 5,945.

PARIS SG 2 (Weah 62, Guerin 63)
AUXERRE 0. **Att:** 25,288.

SOCHAUX 1 (Silvestre 57)
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 4,500.

LILLE 0
BORDEAUX 2 (Valdeir 10, Zidane 65). **Att:** 5,500.

MONTPELLIER 1 (Laurey 80)
LENS 2 (Oman-Biyik 56, Laigle 77). **Att:** 9,000.

CAEN 1 (Gravelaine 25)
NANTES 1 (Ferri 34). **Att:** 10,087.

VALENCIENNES 1 (Burruchaga 82)
MONACO 1 (Perez 40). **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

WEEKEND

LE HAVRE 2 (Tiehi 19, Guruli 68)
METZ 1 (Huysman 36). **Att:** 6,505.

NIMES 2 (Martel 45, Vercruysse pen 55)
LYON 3 (Gava 23, 82, Bianc o.g. 47). **Att:** 8,229.

LENS 0
TOULOUSE 2 (Nemecek 28, Ferrer 90). **Att:** 15,982.

AUXERRE 2 (Prunier 8, Laslandes 90)
TOULON 1 (Meyrieu 10). **Att:** 7,000.

PARIS SG 1 (Duman o.g. 19). **Att:** 17,000.

BORDEAUX 3 (Salaun 25, Dugarry 72, Dogon 85)
VALENCIENNES 0. **Att:** 17,000.

NANTES 2 (Ouedec pen 15, Karembeu 32)
STRASBOURG 2 (Leboeuf pen 13, Farina 64). **Att:** 20,000.

MARSEILLE 2 (Sauzee pen 56, 64)
CAEN 1 (Gravelaine 67). **Att:** 25,000.

ST ETIENNE 1 (Tholot 25)
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 14,312.

SOCHAUX 1 (Weber 35)
LILLE 0. **Att:** 2,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

WEEKEND

LYON 1 (Gava 89)
AUXERRE 1 (Baticle 56). **Att:** 18,996.

PARIS SG 5 (Le Guen 4, Bravo 26, Germain 49, Roche 59, Simba 75)
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 30,000.

TOULON 1 (Roy 51)
NIMES 0. **Att:** 3,000.

METZ 1 (Sechet 32)
LENS 2 (Omam-Biyik 5, El Hadaoui 80). **Att:** 6,324.

TOULOUSE 0
MONACO 2 (Gnako 7, Klinsmann 19). **Att:** 10,926.

VALENCIENNES 1 (Kovacs 67)
NANTES 1 (N'Doram 71). **Att:** 12,390.

STRASBOURG 6 (Etame 3, 60, Cobos 18, Keller 23, Farina 82, Leboeuf 84)
SOCHAUX 1 (Pratt 63). **Att:** 19,573.

MONTPELLIER 2 (Divert 33, Perilleux 69)
LE HAVRE 0. **Att:** 6,000.

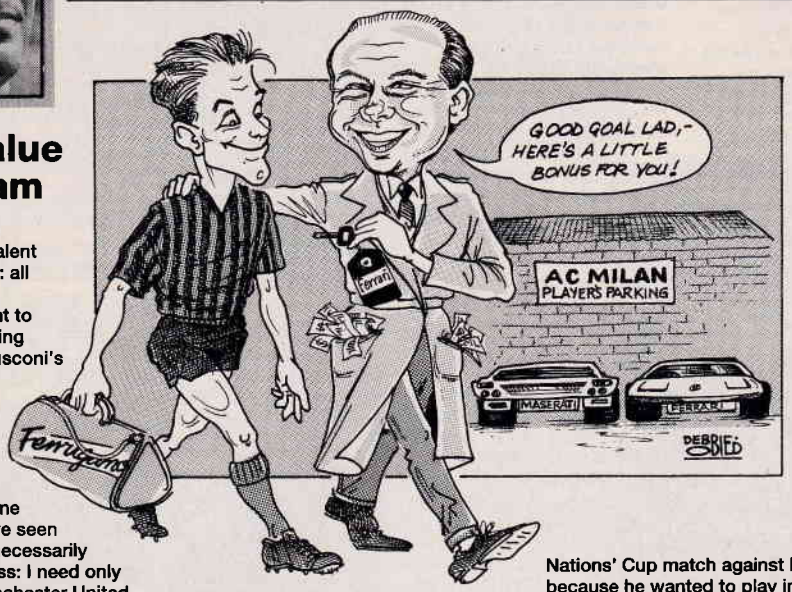
CAEN 0
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 8,543.

LILLE v MARSEILLE – ***postponed***

Monaco's Klinsmann . . . on target against PSG and Toulouse.

BROOKING TALKBACK

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters...



Don't devalue a great team

SIR — I am somewhat perplexed by the prevalent attitude towards Milan: all sections of press and television seem to want to attribute their astounding success to Silvio Berlusconi's wallet alone.

It's true that they have spent, and continue to spend, vast amounts of money, but so do other Italian teams. Time and time again we have seen that money does not necessarily buy large-scale success: I need only cite Juventus and Manchester United as proof of this.

When Milan won the scudetto in such commanding fashion last year, they did so on the back of a summer in which their major purchase was Aldo Serena: he hardly had a first-team game all year. Yet they left Juventus, who had spent at least ten times as much, trailing in their wake.

Milan are the best team in the world firstly because of great coaching and playing tactics, and only secondly because of the talent that they have wisely recruited.

Yes, I'm a Milan fan, but I would have said the same things about Liverpool in the early 80s, or Ajax and Bayern Munich in the 70s.

So please stop trying to devalue their brilliance, and appreciate them for what they are: one of the best few teams of all time.

— MICHAEL GALVAN, St. Hugh's College, Oxford.

● YOU should be pleased with all the comment and hype Milan receive as it is a natural progression when any side keep on winning the major trophies. Everyone will continue to try to knock them off their current lofty position, but with the skill and talent they have in abundance I reckon those waiting will have to show a lot of patience. Their obvious jewel in the crown is Marco Van Basten, and while he remains I can see your team enjoying success for a good while yet.

Strong or not?

SIR — English football is often criticised, but here we think it is as good as any. The championship contest is the most entertaining in the world, and clubs fight from the first kick to the last.

The national team have many good, strong players. All of us here know that England is a good football country.

— VLADIMIRI FYODOROV, St. Petersburg 190000, GPO Post Restante, Russia.

● I WAS a bit concerned to see you use the word "strong" as an example of English players. Certainly our football can be just as exciting as anywhere, but I do believe our skill and flair levels are deteriorating, and recent Under-21 international defeats against Norway and Turkey confirm an anxiety about the quality of our younger players in the future.

Pele's problem

SIR — I am very disappointed with the attitude of my country's finest player, Abedi Pele. He seems to prefer playing for his club, Marseille, to playing for Ghana.

Last year he missed a crucial African Nations' Cup match against Nigeria because he wanted to play in a club game. This year he played against Burkina Faso, but after less than a quarter of an hour he called to the bench that he wanted to go off, although he did not appear to be badly hurt.

He said then that he would be out for a month, but a week later he played for Marseille. Then he pulled out of the game with Burundi at the 11th hour.

If Pele does not want to play for Ghana he should hand over the captaincy to one who is prepared to serve selflessly. There is much bitterness here over Pele's actions.

— FIFI ABODGYE, Accra, Ghana.

Missing too often . . . Abedi Pele.

● THIS is a problem which African countries will experience more and more as their star players get lured to the wealthy sides in Europe. I'm sure Pele has great pride in representing Ghana but if Marseille have important club matches he will find it increasingly difficult to get his release for internationals other than World Cup qualifiers. It is something the player and his agent must clarify and agree with the club before finalising his contract.

Included . . . Alain Gouamene.

Africa's aces

SIR — I have just seen the September issue, with Eric Batty's World XI. My African selection could beat his! Gouamene (Ivory Coast) — Mendy (Senegal) — Tataw (Cameroon), Mbele (Congo), Keshi (Nigeria) — Bwalya (Zambia), Makanaky (Cameroon), Pele (Ghana) — Yeboah (Ghana), Weah (Liberia), Owubokiri (Nigeria).

— SHUMANI KWINDA, Sosolberg, South Africa.

● YOU have selected an exciting team which reflects the tremendous progress African football is making, but my money would still be on that World XI for now.

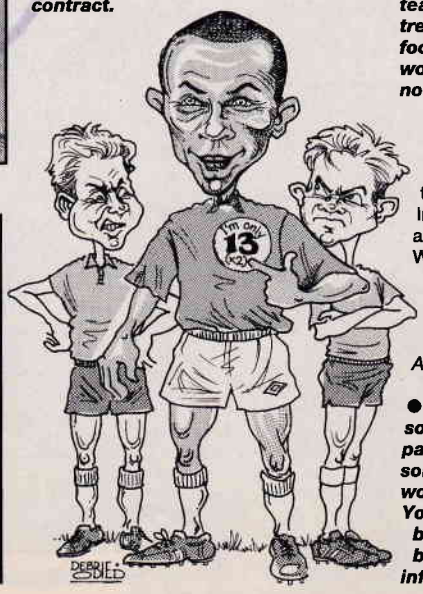
An odd choice

SIR — *WORLD SOCCER* reports that Terry Phelan is the Republic of Ireland's Young Player of the Year, although he is almost 26 years of age. What nonsense!

Surely there must be somebody else more deserving of the award, like Roy Keane for instance.

— SEAN O'BRIEN, Vanbrugh Avenue, Cork, Republic of Ireland.

● IT does stretch the imagination somewhat for Terry to top this particular category and perhaps something like "best newcomer" would have been more appropriate. Your choice of Roy Keane cannot be faulted as I'm sure he is set to become one of the most influential midfielders in Europe.



Unfair on smaller nations

SIR — I was interested to read in your October issue that some of the smaller European nations may have to compete in preliminary qualifying rounds of the World Cup in order to earn the right to compete against the so-called soccer superpowers of the rest of Europe.

It seems unfair that the minnows of Europe should stand virtually no chance of ever qualifying for the World Cup finals while the minnows of Asia, Central America and, until recently, Africa, should be given a relatively easy passage.

— MICHAEL D. JONES, 21 Chapaquoit Way, E. Sandwich, MA 02537, US.

● IT is an inevitable consequence of the far-reaching changes that have happened within countries such as the former Soviet Union. Unfortunately there have to be some sort of preliminary rounds now.

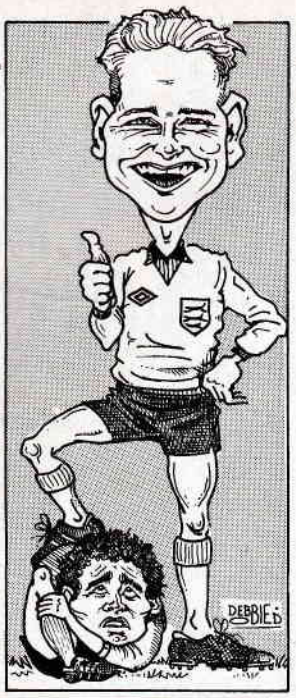
The Gascoigne gap

SIR — The situation concerning Paul Gascoigne has got out of hand. Since his move to Lazio he is being spoken of in the same breath as Maradona. This, in football terms, is a crime.

There is a massive gap in skill, achievement — Gascoigne has none to speak of — and overall "greatness" between the two.

— JAMES McEWAN, Pilton Drive North, Edinburgh.

● THE comparison only surfaced when their two club sides met in a recent friendly match, but they play different roles anyway with Gascoigne in midfield, and Maradona a striker. They have certainly both enjoyed their fair share of headlines and not always for performances on the field. Maradona has excelled at the very highest level as a player, and despite the "hand of God" controversy, had a wonderful World Cup in 1986. Hopefully, the best of Gazza is still to come, and only time will tell as to whether he can earn the right to be ranked alongside the all-time greats.



A Euro League

SIR — A European League has to come. With each country's best team or teams playing, the league would be a great benefit to the game and would make for exciting viewing. National squads also would benefit from such a league.

— W.B. LUNN, Roman Way, Farnham, Surrey.

● THIS argument has been a long running saga which presumably will eventually ending some sort of European League. It would definitely benefit those teams in it, but not necessarily those out, or the national squads. In England, too many matches and not enough quality is the main problem to be solved, and that won't improve until the Premier League is reduced from 22 clubs.

Unwanted Cup

SIR — Football officials are always complaining about having too many matches to play. Why on earth, then, has the Anglo-Italian Cup been revived?

This misconceived competition produces ill-feeling, tiny crowds and too many injuries.

— JAMES BEWES, Dover Road, Southport, Lancashire.

● I MIGHT well have written this letter myself as I totally agree with everything you say and can only put the revival of the Anglo-Italian Cup down to a misguided belief that it would generate significant extra revenue to those participating clubs. Only those reaching the final stages late on in the season will derive any such benefit, but for the remainder it would seem to have been an added inconvenience to an already congested fixture list.

Eight or 16—a case of greed

SIR — I read in the current issue that the next European Championship finals will consist of 16 teams instead of eight. Don't you think this is eight too many? It looks like greed taking over from commonsense.

— ROBBIE DEBENHAM, Billericay, Essex.

● I BELIEVE the European Championship Finals will be even better with sixteen countries involved in 1996. In Sweden last summer, formidable sides like Italy, Spain, Belgium, Portugal and the Republic of Ireland were all missing when they failed to qualify, and that highlights there is sufficient quality around to provide the tournament with exciting matches throughout the extended duration of the competition.

●You can write to Trevor Brooking, c/o WORLD SOCCER, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.
●Comments are Trevor Brooking's opinions and do not necessary reflect WORLD SOCCER'S views. He will answer only those letters published.

PENPALS

MONACO, Milan and Germany fans, please write. I'm female, 14, and will answer all letters in English.
— Gigi Chung, 47 Carr Lane, Cleethorpes, S. Humberside DN35 7SA, England.

ARE you interested in corresponding with a Feyenoord supporter, aged 19?
— Peter Pijcke, Groenetuin 209, 3078 KD Rotterdam, Holland.

FLAMENGO fan would like to exchange letters with football followers worldwide.
— Victor Joao, Rua Ituverava, 1522 cond. Eldorado, Jacarebagua, Freguesia, Rio, Brazil.

GREEK football fan, 16, wants penpals in Europe and Africa. Please write in English.
— Vagelis Pavlopoulos, 2 Sing Frizi St, GR-54629 Thessaloniki, Greece.

LIVERPOOL and Napoli fan, 17, seeks penpals from Italy.
— David Henshall, 8 Balmoral Road, Newport, Gwent, S. Wales NP9 8JR.

BARCELONA and Aston Villa fan, 19, looking for penfriends.
— Kwame Ofori, PO Box 994 Sunyani B/A, Ghana.

PENPALS wanted in Italy and England who are football-lovers. Please write in English and enclose photo.
— James Wylie (14), 15 Barranderry Heights, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, N. Ireland.

KEEN supporter of Liverpool wants penfriends.
— Tonderai S. Chitonho, 6553 Gwabalanda, Luveve, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

BUSINESSMAN, 26, seeks penpals who follow Manchester United.
— Aref Mubarek, PO Box 63, Morogoro, Tanzania.

SRI LANKAN studying in India, fond of IFK Gothenburg and other Scandinavian clubs, seeks penfriends.
— D. Siromani (20), 407 First St., Anna Magar West, Madras 101, India.

LETTERS wanted from fans in England, Scotland, Portugal, Turkey etc.
— Tomide Oguns, c/o PO Box 517, Lagos, Nigeria.

MILAN and Marseille fan, male, 16, wishes to correspond with female Italian or French fans. Write in English/French/German.
— Simon Jones, 7 Sandringham Road, St. Annes, Lancs, FY8 IEZ, England.

I WOULD like to correspond with football fans in the UK.
— Grzegorz Ulanczyk, ul. Drukarska 31-13,53-311 Wroclaw, Poland.

NIGERIAN seeks penpals, fans of teams in France, England, Germany, Holland and Japan.
— Alex Chukwu, 14 Unity Road, Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria.

PENFRIENDS wanted anywhere, especially Liverpool fans.
— Aaron Namukwai (17), House 76, PO Box AC 70, Ascort, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

I'M a Manchester United follower looking for penpals from any part of the world.
— Emmanuel Obeng (18), PO Box 104, Aboso W/R, Ghana.

EXCHANGES

BADGES of more than 120 CIS and Baltic clubs, and programmes for exchange.
— Sergei Marchuk, Prospect Mira 23, ap. 16, Rovno 266013, Ukraine.

VIDEOS of Belgian matches available to exchange for BSkyB or ITV games.
— Gilbert Rousselle, Nieuwstraat 19 (B4) 8400 Ostend, Belgium (059/50.54.83).

RED STAR fan wants to exchange pennants, magazines and posters. All letters answered in English.
— Desimir Vujovic, ul. Stevana Bulajica 42, 78000 Banja Luka, Yugoslavia.

METAL badges wanted for exchange, esp. European teams.
— Nuria Yanez, Mondos 77-0 2, 08227 Terrassa, Barcelona.

FEYENOORD fan would like to exchange football material with English supporters.
— Perino Sluimer, Madeliefstraat 33C, 3083 TC Rotterdam, Holland.

CLUB badges and other soccer items wanted for exchange. All letters answered.
— Tomasz Lewicki, Leczyce 15, 84-218 Godetowo, Poland.

I WILL exchange stadium photos, postcards, books, statistics.
— Fabrizio Pugi, Via Verga 27, 50047 Prato, Italy.

ALL letters answered by souvenir collector. I can exchange badges, videos, magazines etc.
— Vladimir Ignatiev, 603107 G. N-Novgorod 107, postbox 138, Russia.

ARE YOU GETTING THE NEW-LOOK

Here are six good reasons why Britain's top selling all-colour football magazine should be part of your weekly soccer diet.

1 It's bigger, brighter and better than any of its rivals.
2 The features and fun never stop.
3 No other mag gives its readers a bigger say.
4 It's packed with the latest news from home and abroad.
5 The competition prizes are always worth winning.
6 Our Extra Time results service is second to none.

SHOOT *Out every Tuesday*

Celebrating . . . Schwarz greets a Swedish goal.

LIGHT ON STEFAN SCHWARZ

Back to front

A move up has paid for Sweden's Stefan

SWEDISH midfielder Stefan Schwarz has been earning widespread praise of late.

"A gigantic performance . . . world-class . . . a leader, a grafter and a creator all in one person."

These are typical tributes to Schwarz, a cornerstone of Tommy Svensson's national team and indispensable as midfield partner to his former Malmo and Benfica clubmate Jonas Thern, now with Napoli.

Yet in the spring Schwarz was still thought as a mere fringe man of the Swedish side. Indeed, a book previewing the European finals did not even give Schwarz a place among Sweden's 20 hopefuls for the big event!

Basically, the mistrust stemmed from Sweden's sorry participation in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy. They were humiliated 2-1 by Costa Rica, particularly by lightning-fast winger Hernan Medford.

Scapegoats were needed, and Schwarz, a young left-back, had to take the blame. But he was only trying to cover a position which had been a continuous problem since IFK 's Stig Fredriksson retired.

If Schwarz was not up to scratch as a left-back, Schwarz the all-action midfield dynamo is a completely different matter. That was clear to Svensson after Schwarz stepped up to strike two excellent goals against Hungary a week before the Euro finals.

The sheer drive of Thern and Schwarz pushed Sweden into the semi-finals, their greatest achievement in modern times.

In the victory over England, Schwarz was quite simply the king of the castle, thus giving the Swedes a valid reason to mourn his absence through suspension from the semi-final against Germany.

Schwarz was born on April 18, 1969, and learned football basics at Kulladal, southern Sweden, before

PRO-FILE

STEFAN **SCHWARZ**

BENFICA AND SWEDEN

Born: April 18, 1969 in Kulladal.

Previous clubs: Malmo FF, Bayer Leverkusen, Malmo FF.

League debut: November 15, 1987 for Malmo v Granada (friendly).

International caps: 16 (0 goals).

TURKEY

Torsten moves in

TURKISH football gained another controversial character with Galatasaray's signing of striker Torsten Gutschow from Dynamo Dresden.

Gutschow (right), a former East German international, admitted last year that he had acted as a spy for the Stasi, the security police, before German unification.

Not surprisingly his career in his homeland came to a virtual stop, but fellow German Kalli Feldkamp, the Galatasaray coach, has now agreed a fee of around £210,000.

There would have been an extra payment if Gutschow's new club had advanced in the UEFA Cup, but that did not happen. Gala were beaten 5-4 on aggregate by AS Roma in the third round.

Champions Besiktas have struck convincing form again, after losing their unbeaten record to Gala, and are trailing surprise pace-makers Kocaelispor only on goal difference, with Fenerbahce, Trabzonspor and Gala two points behind.

Fenerbahce, although held 1-1 at home by Besiktas, brought off a good 2-2 draw away to Genclerbirligi and thrashed Karsiyaka 7-1.

HASAN **CEMALI**

MALTA

Miller makes a mark

FLORIANA, under English player-coach Mark Miller, may at last end their jinx.

They have not won the League title since 1977, but continued to top the table with 14 points, three ahead of Hibernians.

St. Andrew's, Hamrun Spartans, Valletta, and Sliema Wanderers all had eight points, the last three having a game in hand.

Birkirkara, Rabat Ajax, Mellieha and St. George's were holding up the other six.

Utility man Richard Buhagiar, back into the Floriana and national sides after a niggling injury, has

joining Malmo FF at 14. After impressing in the Swedish Boys' team, he was taken on by Germany's Bayer Leverkusen.

Although he spoke the language, his father being German, moving abroad was still a bold step for a 16-year-old.

"The time in Leverkusen was very useful," says Schwarz. "I learned a lot, for I was mostly on my own and taking care of my own affairs. But at the time I felt that I needed to do something more than just play and train, so I went back to Malmo, where I could develop my career at a very good level and study too."

Schwarz made his debut in Malmo's first team on November 15, 1987, in a friendly against Granada, and his performance made Malmo's English coach, Roy Hodgson, "almost lyrical", as one writer put it.

For almost three years, young Stefan maintained that standard, and eventually he was courted by another German club, Bayern Munich, but they insisted on his acquiring a German passport.

Schwarz declined, fearing that it would cost him his place in the Swedish World Cup party, and joined Benfica instead.

After an injury-marred debut season at Estadio da Luz, he has come to his own, and now Benfica are likely to face a losing battle trying to scare off the Italian cheque-wavers.

Schwarz has one of the best left foots in Europe at the moment, and — like Thern — is equally good at defending and attacking.

He is as hard as nails, although not very tall, and his suspension during the European Championship was not a coincidence, for he picked up further yellow cards in consecutive World Cup matches against Finland and Bulgaria.

But providing he keeps the accent on skill, not strength, there is no telling how far he could go.

PENTTI **HIETANEN**

had a lot to do with his club's good run.

Malta's 3-0 World Cup qualifying defeat by the Swiss did not reflect the standard of their display. "A 2-1 result would have been more fair," said FA president Dr Joe Mifsud.

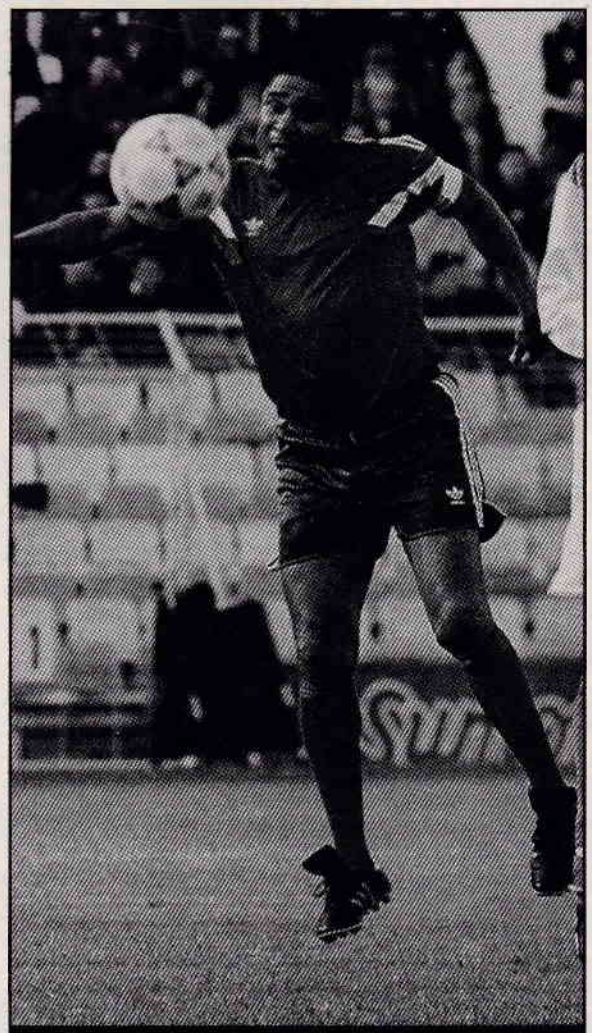
The vital third goal was a gift from David Cluett, who had kept goal brilliantly until then.

A week later Cluett returned to club duty with Floriana against Rabat, and saved two penalties in a 3-0 victory.

DOMENICO **AQUILINA**

PORTUGAL

Major upheaval may be possible



Celebrating . . . Eusebio in action during his birthday match, and posing with his guest players (below).

DISSENT and controversy in Portuguese football may lead to a change in the game's administration.

There is widespread mistrust of the FA, an arena for political and inter-club wrangling, and rebels could set up a Football League to take over as ruling body.

Few people will shed tears if the devalued FA were to disappear, but many are concerned at the prospect of an Army major taking charge of the new group, as is rumoured.

Eusebio, recently the guest of honour at celebrations marking his 50th birthday, would be a popular choice for the job.

But as he said at the birthday banquet: "I am not good at speeches. It was only in the football stadium that I could write, read and spell."

The Army major has no direct soccer experience, but he is among the best at speech-making. That could have something to do with his possible appointment.

Eusebio, probably Portugal's most famous sportsman, was honoured by many distinguished guests, including President Soares.

An hour-long match was played at Benfica's ground, drawing 45,000 people despite heavy rain, between an Old Benfica XI and a foreign selection including Bobby Charlton, Rivelino, Altafini, Milla, Neeskens and Krol.

The guests won 4-2, with Charlton — an old adversary of Eusebio with England and Manchester United — scoring the third goal.

This was followed by a full-scale friendly between Benfica and Manchester United, a re-run of some of their past battles in European competition. Benfica won 1-0 with a late goal by Rui Costa.

In domestic competition, however, Benfica are not at their best. They struggled to beat Second Division Pouletano 1-0 in the Portuguese Cup, and were held 0-0 at home by Beira-Mar to slip further behind in the title race.

Three clubs in the top division were knocked out of the Cup by teams in Division Two. Evora beat Gil Vicente 2-1, Penafiel defeated Espino by the same score, and Rio Avenida beat Estoril 3-2.

ALBERTO **DA SILVA**

TABLES

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK	12	10	2	0	30	9	32
Olympiakos	12	8	3	1	22	7	27
Panathinaikos	12	7	3	2	31	10	24
OFI Crete	12	7	2	3	21	10	23
Iraklis	12	7	1	4	20	17	22
Aris	12	6	2	4	19	15	20
PAOK	12	6	1	5	20	15	19
Larissa	12	5	3	4	11	11	18
Doxa Drama	12	4	3	5	16	20	15
Xanthi	12	4	2	6	22	22	14
Panachaiki	12	4	2	6	16	17	14
Apollon	12	4	2	6	10	18	14
Athinaikos	12	2	6	4	11	15	12
Edessaikos	12	3	3	6	18	30	12
Ionikos	12	2	3	7	11	20	9
Kalamata	12	1	5	6	7	18	8
Korinthos	12	1	5	6	9	21	8
Pierikos	12	1	4	7	8	19	7

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	14	10	2	2	27	8	22
Sporting	14	6	6	2	20	11	18
Benfica	13	7	3	3	15	8	17
Belenenses	14	6	5	3	16	9	17
Boavista	14	6	4	4	17	11	16
Maritimo	14	6	3	5	22	15	15
Salgueiros	14	4	7	3	16	16	15
Braga	14	6	2	6	14	14	14
Beira-Mar	14	4	6	4	11	14	14
Famalicao	14	4	6	4	12	16	14
Estoril	14	4	5	5	16	15	13
Guimaraes	14	6	1	7	15	21	13
Pacos Ferreira	13	4	4	6	16	18	12
Espinho	14	4	4	6	14	21	12
Tirsense	14	3	5	6	9	13	11
Farense	14	3	5	6	13	16	11
Gil Vicente	14	3	5	6	9	21	11
Chaves	14	1	3	10	9	22	5

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kocaelispor	13	9	2	2	35	13	29
Besiktas	14	8	5	1	29	13	29
Fenerbahce	14	8	3	3	35	17	27
Trabzonspor	14	7	6	1	24	9	27
Galatasaray	13	8	3	2	23	9	27
Bursaspor	14	7	3	4	24	19	24
Ankaragucu	14	6	2	6	24	19	20
Altay	14	5	2	7	15	22	17
Sanyer	14	4	4	6	15	22	16
Genclerbirligi	14	4	4	6	19	22	16
Balkirkoyspor	14	4	3	7	22	23	15
Kayserispor	14	2	7	5	14	18	13
Aydinspor	14	3	4	7	10	22	13
Karsiyaka	14	2	6	6	15	27	12
Gaziantepspor	14	3	3	8	14	28	12
Konyaspor	14	0	5	9	11	41	5

MALTA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Floriana	8	6	2	0	17	6	14
Hibernians	8	5	1	2	20	15	11
St. Andrews	8	2	4	2	18	12	8
Hamrun Spartans	7	4	0	3	15	11	8
Valletta	7	3	2	2	10	7	8
Sliema Wand.	7	4	0	3	12	11	8
Birkirkara	7	2	2	3	9	11	6
Rabat Ajax	8	2	2	4	7	12	6
Mellieha	8	2	1	5	7	16	5
St. George's	8	0	2	6	6	20	2

LIGHT ON VYACHESLAV KOLOSKOV

Problems on the Russian front

VYACHESLAV KOLOSKOV is one of the most powerful men in world football. He was president of the Soviet Football Federation until the Soviet Union collapsed, and today he is President of the new Russian Football Federation. He also wields great influence in international football's governing bodies, UEFA and FIFA. As the new national team enters exciting times, Russian domestic football faces countless

WS: Russia took the place of the CIS in the qualifiers for the next World Cup. Why did FIFA appoint Russia as successor, instead of holding a tournament between former Soviet republics to decide who should take the World Cup place?
VK: FIFA set up a special committee to decide who should replace the CIS not only in the World Cup but in all FIFA competitions. The committee concluded that of the 11 republics comprising the CIS, only Russia had sufficient financial and playing strength. Note was taken of the fact that while the national team included three or four Ukrainians, an Armenian and a Georgian, the other CIS teams — Olympics, youth, women's and five-a-side — are 90 per cent Russian. Had Ukraine replaced CIS, there would have been a new national team, while with Russia as successor the team could continue harmoniously and naturally. The committee listed the following arguments: as a state, Russia acquired all the rights of the former USSR. It has taken the USSR's place on the United Nations Security Council; Soviet embassies have all become Russian embassies; and Russia has undertaken to pay all the foreign debts of the USSR. Also, Russia was a member of FIFA from 1912 onwards. In accordance with the statutes I did not take my seat at the FIFA meeting at which the decision was made.

WS: But the Ukrainians are angry.
VK: Georgians are angry, too.

WS: So some Ukrainians now play for Russia?
VK: Yes — Onopko of Spartak Moscow, Yuran of Benfica and Kanchelskis of Manchester United. Kanchelskis has taken a long time to make his decision, but in a recent telephone conversation he indicated that he wanted to play for Russia. Dobrovolski of Georgia is Moldavian but he too will play for Russia. The Ukrainian Football Federation do not mind losing them. They prefer players to play in the Ukraine. They invited Kanchelskis for a match against Hungary but he never showed up.

WS: Only 14,000 went to watch the first match of the Russian national team, a friendly against Mexico, even though entry was free. Then Russia played a tournament in Italy for which most of the Russians who play abroad declared themselves unavailable. Shalimov turned down the chance to play in the tournament in order to play a friendly for Inter Milan! Would you agree that there is little enthusiasm among fans and players for the new national team?
VK: Absolutely not! Even in the old days, when the USSR existed, we could not boast large attendances for friendlies. As for the players, Shalimov asked not to be invited because he felt the friendly against Juventus was crucial to securing his place in the Inter side. In the past our coaches used to phone players to ask whether they were interested in playing — now players ring up to say they are desperate to play.

WS: Do you have plans for friendlies against more attractive opponents than Mexico?
VK: Yes. Our strategy is to meet the elite of world football. We have invited several leading countries to play home-and-away friendlies against us. We are awaiting their answers.

WS: The All-Soviet League has disappeared, and now each republic has a league. Has football in the former USSR suffered from the break-up?
VK: Of course damage was done, very great damage, in all the republics. Kiev Dynamo in the Ukraine, Minsk Dynamo in Byelorussia, Dynamo Tblisi in Georgia, Ararat Yerevan in Armenia were all very good teams but more importantly they were consistent schools of football, football cultures which enriched themselves by playing against one another. Only if the CIS comes to have the function of a state could we have a national league again. So we will have to watch political developments closely.

WS: Is a CIS-wide league possible in the near future?
VK: There is now a body called the Council of Presidents, which consists of the Presidents of the Football Federations of the CIS republics. This body has agreed to stage a tournament for the champions of the republics.

WS: Valery Ovchinikov, manager of Lokomotiv Nizhni Novgorod, recently told a Russian football magazine that he often pays referees, and claimed that he is not the only manager who does. Have you taken any action against him?
VK: It was a joke. Two weeks later Ovchinikov stood in this very room and swore he had been joking.

WS: Do you believe him?
VK: There is an old Russian saying, "He who is not caught is not a thief." Also there is the presumption of innocence. We have a match delegate watching each match, and if the referee is bad then that referee is no more. In recent months we have disqualified five referees for inconsistent refereeing. It is possible that some of them were cheating. Of course this hurts our reputation.

WS: Over 400 players from the former USSR now play abroad. Do you have any plans to prevent even more from leaving?
VK: Yes, we have a plan. Our plan is to increase living standards here to the level of Germany. At least!

SLOVAKIA

WANTED: Some international dates

SOCCER-LOVERS in Slovakia, the newly-independent Eastern European state, are longing to get rid of a record.

Their national team have not played a full international since April 9, 1944, when they lost 7-3 to Croatia in Zagreb.

This is thought to be the longest time any nation has spent without a "proper" game.

Slovakia became part of Czechoslovakia after the First World War, when Czechs and Slovaks were united by a treaty. After World War Two, and the German occupation, they split into two socialist republics under the united name.

Now both groups are going their separate ways, and Slovaks are anxious to become established on the European and world soccer stage.

All Slovakia's 16 internationals were played during the German rule between 1939 and 1944, when the area was a puppet state. The first match, a 2-0 win over a team labelled "Germany", was in fact against a mixed side. Six of the opposition had been born in Austria, which also had been annexed by Hitler.

Slovakia had little success during the five-year spell, winning only two other matches.

But the game flourished at club level, as part of the Czechoslovak League.

Slovan Bratislava were champions four times and Cup-winners four times, and in 1969 they won the European Cup-winners' Cup, beating Barcelona in the final.

In the same year Spartak Trnava, winners of both domestic titles five times, reached the semi-final of the Champions' Cup, losing to Ajax Amsterdam.

Football is still highly popular in Slovakia. Perhaps, before long, a national side will be seen again.

PERRY **MENEXIS**

SLOVAKIA
Full Internationals

Date	Opponents	Result	Venue
27.08.39	Germany	2-0	Bratislava
03.12.39	Germany	1-3	Chemnitz
06.06.40	Bulgaria	4-1	Sofia
15.09.40	Germany	0-1	Bratislava
07.09.41	Croatia	1-1	Bratislava
28.09.41	Croatia	2-5	Zagreb
12.10.41	Romania	2-3	Bucharest
07.12.41	Germany	0-4	Breslau
07.06.42	Croatia	1-2	Bratislava
23.08.42	Romania	1-0	Bratislava
07.09.42	Croatia	1-6	Zagreb
22.11.42	Germany	2-5	Bratislava
10.04.43	Croatia	0-1	Zagreb
07.06.43	Croatia	1-3	Bratislava
13.06.43	Romania	2-2	Bucharest
09.04.44	Croatia	3-7	Zagreb

Record: P-16 W-3 D-2 L-11 F-23 A-44

ALBANIA

Besa still in hunt

BESA KAVAJE slipped from the top in Albania, being replaced by Partizani, but they are not out of the race by any means.

Only one point separated the pair at the halfway mark, and Besa had conceded only nine goals in their 15 games.

Five points separated the top six clubs and the finish will be desperately close if they keep on dropping points to each other in the top fixtures. As yet, no club has put together a dominating sequence of results.

Flamurtari continue to be stuck at the bottom, with only two victories.

The national squad face a vital World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland on February 17. A home defeat would mean six games with only three points, and make further progress virtually impossible. Victory would keep hope alive.

GEZIM **NUSHI**

BULGARIA

France now the only barrier

THE last match of the calendar year in Group Six provided a satisfactory step in Dimitar Penev's World Cup campaign on the road to the US '94.

Whether the Bulgarians qualify may ultimately depend on the last game in November 1993, when they visit Paris, but the squad can look back on a successful start towards one of the two places available, apart from the 3-0 reverse in Stockholm.

Against Israel the manager decided to field both Hristo Stoichkov, who had missed the friendly against Portugal, and Trifon Ivanov,

HUNGARY

Vac back in the same state

VAC FC-SAMSUNG will not need to be reminded that their position is exactly the same as that of a year ago.

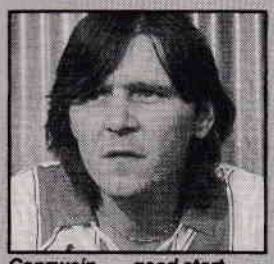
Then they were the halfway champions of the Hungarian League before the mid-winter break. The advantage was a point and better goal figures than Kispest-Honved, then the defending champions.

A thumping 3-1 home defeat by a revived Ferencvaros in the first round of the spring campaign was an omen: Fradi remained unbeaten and went on to win the championship from Vac, by one point, with superior goal difference.

The same fixture is again part of this season's spring schedule but perhaps Janos Csank's Vac team have done the hard part by beating Fradi away, 1-0, and moving into first position.

They have 23 points, one more than Ferencvaros and with a slightly better goal difference, and two more than Kispest-Honved.

Antal Fule scored the only goal of an exciting match played in wet and cold conditions. Ferencvaros complained that the goal was offside, and seemed much affected by the referee's decision for the remainder of the match.



Genzwein . . . good start.

A week later Ferencvaros — still missing injured midfield playmaker Imre Fodor — ran into Zsolt Muzsnay, the Romanian who had returned to Videoton-Waltham from a stint in Belgium. He inspired Vidi to a brilliant 3-2 success after the team trailed 2-0 at half-time. Laszlo Czeh and Ferenc Horvath were outstanding too.

Videoton's manager is Gabor Hartyani, 45, one of several new to this standard of football this season. His ability to formulate positive tactics as the pressure increases will be one of the fascinating sidelights when the better weather returns.

Kispest-Honved took 15 points out of 18 at home, but still dispensed with manager Josef Verebes, replacing him with former Finnish national coach Martti Kuusela.

Dr Ferenc Genzwein, another new manager, has brought the smiles back to the faithful at Fay utca, where Vasas have dropped only four points.

Pecs, the first team to beat the champions — and in Budapest — have slumped to such an extent that only four points came from the last nine rounds.

Proud Diosgyor, whose attendances put to shame some of those clubs in the capital, are the only team undefeated at home, with three wins and four draws.

The autumn programme resulted in much safety-first football, a few truly open matches of genuinely high quality, and an average of just under 2.5 goals a game.

After the national team's scoreless draw against Greece in Salonika, opinion is divided on the chances of qualifying for the World Cup.

The recent mania in Hungary to criticise the manager if he does not create instant success is worrying, but Hungary cannot yet be discounted from qualifying for the United States

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

Bratislava could be best

THE World Cup tie with Romania in Bucharest is almost certainly the last in Czechoslovak international history.

The list began with two "Army XI" games with Italy and Belgium in 1919, continued with so-called "Olympiade" matches in Paris that summer — in which the Czechoslovaks beat France 3-2 in the final — before the 1920 Olympics proper in Belgium and the notorious last game, called off by veteran English referee Lewis after 38 minutes.

In 1921 Yugoslavia visited Prague and suffered a 6-1 defeat against a team of Sparta and Slavia and one Viktoria Zizkov player and, if this was the starting point, then it is a history of 71 years, with a break between 1938 and 1945.

The Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic will now field separate national teams but for the remaining 1994 World Cup qualifying games they will continue to put out a combined side "in association."

The chances of being able to book tickets for America must be 50-50, and may depend on how motivated or not Macala's squad are for the remaining games in Group Four. Three are away, four at home.

Beating the Romanians at home will be vital, and perhaps Bratislava, where Czechoslavkia have so seldom lost, would be the best venue.

Meanwhile the football world mourns the loss of Dr Vaclav Jira at the age of 71.

He was known as a top official in UEFA circles, but played for and managed Bohemians and the national side before going on to high office.

His influence will be much missed as Czech and Slovak football go their own ways with individual associations in Prague and Bratislava.

In the league his old club are having a torrid time, the latest lapse being a 2-0 defeat against Inter in front of a mere 1,073 spectators in Bratislava.

It left the "Green and Whites" on the penultimate rung only a point ahead of Dukla Prague, who remarkably came to life to win at the Juliska for only the second time this season.

Even more surprising was that their 3-2 victory was over champions Slovan, but even they drew only 1,174 spectators. Saidl scored all Dukla's goals, and Meixner hit both for Slovan.

BOB **VAUGHAN**

Action from the Israel v Bulgaria match in Tel Aviv.

though initially he had indicated they would not be selected if they played for their clubs the previous weekend.

The gamble, if that is what it was, paid off. Stoichkov laid on Nasko Sirakov's opener, and Luboslav Penev, the manager's nephew, put the result in Tel Aviv beyond doubt with a second goal near the end.

With four of the remaining six games due to be played in Sofia, only France realistically have a chance of denying Bulgaria a place in the finals.

On the domestic front, the last 16 in the Cup do not include Slavia or Dobrudja, both eliminated by Second Division opposition and both near the bottom of the table with four wins each.

Fortunately for them Haskovo and Sliven are doing worse and look favourites for relegation.

Fellow stragglers Vantra were defeated 6-1, in Sofia by CSKA. But the champions could not make up much ground on Levski, four points ahead, whose draw at Beroe was only their fourth dropped point of the season. They seem assured of a place in Europe, though not yet of the title.

Guerov, their striker, has 18 goals, an average of more than one a game.

BOB VAUGHAN

POLAND

LKS lead as the big sleep begins

DOMESTIC football holds sway again until the national team resume World Cup action at home to San Marino in late April.

In the Cup, league leaders LSK Lodz only edged past Zaglebie Lubin by the odd goal in three, Ruch Chorzow went out away to Widzew Lodz, and the Ruch reserves, who had fought their way through the qualifying rounds, put out Miedz on their own ground, 2-1 after extra time.

Ruch's seniors followed this by showing what they can really do, seeing off Szombierki in Bytom 4-0 to move into fourth place.

Lech and Widzew both won convincingly to stay a point behind LKS but now the championship goes into the long winter sleep, with both Lodz clubs, Lech and Ruch all in with a chance when football starts again in the spring.

ROMANIA

Outlook is now much brighter

TWIN disappointments of defeat in Brussels and dropping a point in Bucharest were put aside by Cornel Dinu's team in Larnaca.

Popescu's fourth-minute goal put them on the way to a convincing 4-1 victory and seven points from their first five ties in Group Four of the World Cup qualifiers.

Goal difference of plus 13 is healthy, but Dinu will be going in to the April return with Cyprus knowing that the real test comes in June, with a visit to Czechoslovakia. By that stage Romania could have nine points from six matches and would need only a draw if the "Associated Team" have not won in Larnaca and beaten Wales at home.

There is still a long way to go in the championship, which has developed into a two-horse race. Dinamo won 2-1 at Resita after giving Progresul a 7-0 thrashing in the Bucharest Derby the previous week, but Steaua also won twice, at Farul and less convincingly at home against Bistrita, to maintain their one-point lead.

The railway club, Rapid, have crept up into third place. Craiova, less consitent, have slipped to fourth, a point ahead of cross-town rivals Electroputere and Bistrita.

Former Dinamo and Real Zaragoza striker Dorin Mateut (above) has signed a three-year contract with Italians Brescia, managed by Mircea Lucescu, ex-manager of the national team. Gheorghe Hagi, Ioan Sabau and Florin Raducioiu also are at Brescia.

Supreme Soviets

Now Leonenko and Co. are still giants among pygmies

VIKTOR LEONENKO almost saved Kiev Dynamo's season with his 88th-minute goal against Rapid Vienna in September.

He put Dynamo through on away goals, to the second round of the UEFA Cup, the tournament that really matters to them.

The break-up of the Soviet Union has left Dynamo, one of Europe's biggest clubs, playing in one of Europe's smallest leagues, the Ukrainian.

The great Moscow clubs suffered less from the demise of the All-Soviet league, because they still meet each other in the Russian League.

Dynamo, however, now face the likes of Kremen Kremenchuk and Niva Ternopol in place of Moscow Spartak and Dynamo Tblisi, so attendances are down from an average of 50,000 four years ago to little more than 2,000 today.

Europe is what counts now, and although Anderlecht proved far too strong in the second round, Dynamo at least earned some cash and gave their dwindling band of fans something to talk about.

Now that the USSR is dead, we can officially pronounce Kiev Dynamo the most successful side in Soviet history. They were the only one to win a European trophy (the Cup-winners' Cup in 1975 and 1986), and their 13 Soviet League championships set another record.

Then there is the little matter of their nine Soviet Cups and their European Super Cup of 1975, and under manager Valery Lobanovski virtually the whole Dynamo team played, thinly disguised as the USSR, to reach the quarter-finals of the 1986 World Cup and the final of the 1988 European Championship.

The current players are young and not yet capable of such heights, which is yet another parallel with Liverpool: like the Anfield club, Dynamo seldom change managers and never change their style of football, which like Liverpool's depends on incessant running off the ball.

Dynamo started life in November 1927, and their first match was a 6-2 friendly defeat by Moscow Dynamo.

Things got better, and in 1936 Dynamo took second place (behind Moscow Dynamo) in the first Soviet championship.

There was no league football during the war years, yet the period produced the most famous story associated with the club.

The tale was that during the German occupation of the Ukraine, a German side played Dynamo. The stands were filled with soldiers with machine-guns, and when Dynamo took the lead they started firing. Several players were wounded, yet Dynamo held out to win . . . only for the entire team to be executed after the match.

A statue by the stadium commemorates the event — but it now seems that the Communist Party of the 1950s invented the story.

Kiev Dynamo's first real moment of glory came in 1961, with the club's first League title. The star of that team was the 22-year-old Lobanovski, who as manager was to turn Dynamo into one of the most feared teams in Europe. Few club sides of recent decades could have beaten his Dynamo team of 1986.

Lobanovski managed Kiev from 1973 to 1990, and the current manager, Anatoly Puzach, is his former assistant. Lobanovski modelled Dynamo on the great Dutch side of the early 1970s, and his favourite phrase was "total football." He made that Dynamo's style, and Puzach is maintaining the tradition, albeit with inferior materials.

Running off the ball and overlapping lines are Dynamo's characteristics, and when they hit their ideal pace the team make opponents look like old men.

Lobanovski, now in the United Arab Emirates, believes in a scientific approach to football, and Professor Anatoly Zelentsov was one of his closest collaborators. Zelentsov devised a system of computer tests, and at the 1988 European Championship Lobanovski picked the players who performed best at these tests.

His choices surprised the experts, but the USSR went on to take second place behind Holland.

Zelentsov and Lobanovski also developed what they called the "arhythmic method", which they used briefly in 1986.

According to this, the team had to play at top speed for ten minutes and then rest for five, passing the ball around in defence.

"The arhythmic method" produced the USSR's 6-0 victory over Hungary at the 1986 World Cup.

Lobanovski also is remembered as a disciplinarian. Once he saw a player drunk, and made him work as a groundsman for five months, then sold him to another club.

Most of the players who shone under Lobanovski, such as Igor Belanov and Alexander Zavarov, failed when they moved west because they could not cope with their new freedom.

Belanov was the second Dynamo player to be European Player of the Year, in 1986, though Zavarov was voted Soviet Player of the Year for that season.

The first Dynamo player to be named the best in Europe was Oleg Blokhin (1975) who is generally considered the best the USSR produced.

Blokhin holds several Soviet records: 432 games for Dynamo, 211 goals, 112 Soviet caps and 42 goals. He was a member of the Dynamo sides who won the Cup-winners' Cup in 1975 and 1986, and dazzled Bayern Munich to win the 1975 Super Cup.

Perestroika spelled the end for the last great Dynamo side. As soon as players could go west they did, though they invariably disappointed. Alexei Mikhailichenko and Oleg Kuznetsov have never played for Rangers as they did for Kiev. Of the 1986 side, only Pavel Yakovenko and Anatoly Demianenko are still with Kiev.

Lobanovski left in 1990 when he realised he could not halt the exodus. Before leaving, though, he made a change at the club as crucial as any of his tactical innovations: on January 2, 1989, he turned Dynamo into the first Soviet professional club.

Until then, the Ministry of Internal Affairs owned the club and the players were nominally police officers. With professionalism, Dynamo could buy and sell and attract sponsors without interference.

Dynamo are now the richest club in the old USSR — and far richer than the Ukrainian government.

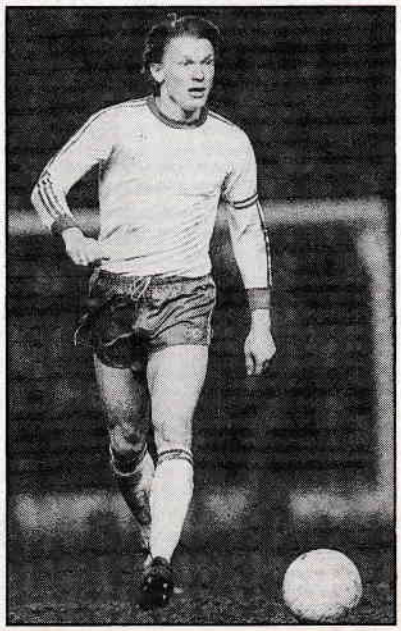
This is because the club have gone into business, as partners in many joint ventures with Western companies.

But the Dynamo players know they could earn far more in the West. Before they go, though, they must win the Ukrainian title.

Last year was the inaugural season of the Ukrainian League, and Dynamo finished second. Only two matches were lost all season, but one was the championship play-off against Tavria Simferopol.

Earlier this season Dynamo beat Tavria but one Kiev paper called it "a revenge without witnesses." Only 2,000 watched, and Kiev's Republican Stadium seats 100,000. Only another European success in future years will sell the remaining 98,000 tickets.

SIMON KUPER



Blokhin (left) and Demianenko (above) were part of the great Kiev Dynamo side of the 1980s.

THE MANAGER

Anatoly PUZACH (above).
Aged 51.
Played 215 games for Dynamo 1965-73, and won four Soviet titles and a Soviet Cup.
Started his coaching career as Lobanovski's assistant, and took over as manager when Lobanovski left in 1990.
Puzach is less strict but so far less successful. His assistants, Viktor Kolotov and Vladimir Bessonov, are former Dynamo players.

THE PLAYERS

Valdemaras MARTINKENAS.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 27 (born in Klaipeda, Lithuania, on March 10 1965).
Started his career with Atalantas, but in 1983 he joined Lithuania's major club, Zalgiris Vilnius. Moved to Dynamo in July 1991, and is a Lithuanian international.

Igor KOUTEPOV.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 26 (born in Pervomaisk, Ukraine, on December 17, 1965).
Plated 96 matches in the Supreme Soviet League for Metallist Kharkov, 1982-90, before going to Dynamo in December 1990.

Anatoly DEMIANENKO.
Left-back.
Aged 33 (born in the Ukraine on February 19, 1959).
Captain and veteran supreme, now back after a spell of just over a year with the ill-fated East German side, FC Magdeburg. Played 333 matches in the Supreme Soviet League for Dynamo, winning five championship medals as well as being a member of the side who won the 1986 Cup-winners' Cup. Won 80 caps (six goals) for the USSR, and played in the side who were second at the 1988 European Championship. No longer so fast, but regularly storms into attack, and is often found in the opposition penalty-box.

Akhrik TSVEIBA (left).
Sweeper.
Aged 26 (born in Gudauta, Georgia, on September 10, 1966).
Played in Georgia for Dynamo Sukhumi, SKA Khabarovsk and Dynamo Tblisi, and was a member of the Soviet national squad when Georgia pulled out of the Soviet Football Federation nearly three years ago. Lobanovski persuaded him that he could best further his career by joining Dynamo, so Tsveiba moved to Kiev in March 1990. A member of the Abkhazian tribe fighting a secessionist war against Georgia so has decided to pursue his international career with the Ukraine, and has one cap to go with his 20 Soviet caps.

Reliable defender Sergei Shmatovalenko.

Oleg LUZHNY.
Right-back.
Aged 24 (born in Lvov, Ukraine, on August 5, 1968).
Played for Volyn Lutskim and SKA Karpaty, then joined Dynamo in November 1988. Eight Soviet caps.

Sergei SHMATOVALENKO.
Defender.
Aged 25 (born in Odessa, Ukraine, on January 20, 1967).
Played for Chernomorets Odessa, SKA Odessa and CSKA Moscow and has been with Dynamo since June 1987. Two caps for the USSR and one for Ukraine.

Andrei ALEXANENKOV.
Defender.
Aged 25 (born Moscow, on March 27, 1967).
Played for Moscow Dynamo from 1986 to 1989, then moved to Kiev but has yet to gain a regular place.

Yuri MOROZ.
Defender.
Aged 22 (born in Smela, Ukraine, on September 8, 1970).
Joined Dynamo, his first professional club, in 1987, and signed a seven-year contract the next year.

Sergei ZAYETS.
Defender-midfielder.
Aged 23 (born in Berditchev, Ukraine, on August 18, 1969).
Has been at Dynamo since June 1986, and is on a seven-year contract. Played two matches for the Soviet Olympic team.

Igor PANKRATIEV.
Centre-back or midfielder.
Aged 28 (born in Lithuania on September 8, 1964).
A powerful man, famed for his shots from long range. Joined Kiev from Zalgiris Vilnius in June.

Sergei KOVALETS.
Midfielder.
Aged 24 (born in Chekhovo, Ukraine, on September 5, 1968).
Played for Podolie Khelmnitsky before joining Dynamo. Won a cap for the Ukraine in the new nation's first official international, against the US in June.

Pavel YAKOVENKO.
Midfielder.
Aged 28 (born Nikopol, Ukraine, on December 19, 1964).
At Dynamo since 1982, and won a Cup-winners' Cup medal in 1986. Because of frequent injuries he was the only member of that side never to go abroad, but the nine-year contract he signed in 1984 expires soon and now might be his chance to fill his bank account. Yakovenko is the legs as well as the brains of Dynamo, and he appears on every part of the field. Won 15 Soviet caps (one goal).

Pavel SHKAPENKO.
Midfielder-forward.
Aged 19 (born December 16, 1972).
Went to Dynamo from Metallurg Zaprozhie in the summer after Puzach voted him the second-most promising young player in Ukraine.

Yuri GRITSINA.
Forward.
Aged 21 (born in Severodonetsk, Ukraine, on April 16, 1971).
Played for Zarya-MALS Lugansk before switching to Dynamo in December 1989. Usually understudies Leonenko or Mintenko.

Viktor LEONENKO.
Forward.
Aged 23 (born in Russia on October 5, 1969).
Father is Ukrainian, and Leonenko has opted to play for Ukraine, even though Russia alone were allowed to enter the World Cup qualifiers. This contrary stance is typical of Leonenko, temperamental on and off the field. Signed a three-year contract after a controversial move from Mosocw Dynamo and is often compared with Igor Belanov, but to fulfil his promise he will have to become more of a team player. One Ukrainian cap.

Vitaly MINTENKO.
Forward.
Aged 20 (born October 29, 1972).
Ukrainian league managers voted Mintenko the third most promising young player in the Ukraine last year, signed from Bukovina Chernitsy.

LATVIA/LITHUANIA

Skonto's title

SKONTO RIGA won the Latvian title in a desperately close finish.

They were level with RAF Jelgava on 38 points after 22 games, but goal difference was not considered and a play-off was used to settle matters.

Skonto duly won, by the odd goal in five, to round off a season in which they lost only twice and scored 54 goals.

The situation was equally tight in **LITHUANIA**, with only one point between the top three at the end of the first round.

Zalgiris and Ekranas had almost identical records, and Panerys were only a fraction behind.

MARCUS LUIK

TABLES

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizani	15	9	4	2	28	13	22
Besa	15	8	5	2	21	9	21
Dinamo	15	8	4	3	21	17	20
Vllaznia	15	8	3	4	23	11	19
Teuta	15	7	3	5	16	13	17
Albpetrol	15	6	5	4	21	20	17
Elbasani	15	5	5	5	16	14	15
Apolonia	15	4	6	5	24	26	14
Laci	15	5	4	6	10	14	14
Tirana	15	4	5	6	15	14	13
Sopoti	15	5	3	7	20	23	13
Lushnja	15	4	4	7	12	19	12
Tomori	15	5	2	9	16	28	12
Kastrioti	15	3	5	7	13	17	11
Pogradeci	15	4	3	8	14	20	11
Flamurtari	15	2	5	8	10	22	9

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta Prague	15	10	1	4	28	12	21
Slovan	15	10	0	5	34	18	20
Dunajska Streda	15	9	2	4	33	20	20
Slavia Prague	15	7	5	3	29	18	19
Sigma Olomouc	15	8	2	5	19	19	18
FC Nitra	15	5	6	4	14	12	16
FC Boby Brno	15	7	2	6	22	26	16
Inter Bratislava	15	7	1	7	28	23	15
Banik Ostrava	15	5	5	5	24	22	15
SK Budejovice	15	6	2	7	19	17	14
Tatran Presov	15	5	4	6	24	22	14
Hradec Kralove	14	5	3	6	16	15	13
TJ Vitkovice	14	4	3	7	12	19	11
Spartak Trnava	15	1	7	7	15	31	9
Bohemians	15	2	5	8	8	29	9
Dukla Prague	15	3	2	10	20	42	8

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vac FC	15	11	1	3	27	13	23
Ferencvaros	15	10	2	3	23	11	22
Kispest-Honved	15	9	3	3	24	15	21
Vasas	15	6	6	3	19	15	18
Videoton	14	7	3	4	24	17	17
Bekescsaba	15	5	6	4	20	18	16
MTK	15	5	5	5	25	19	15
Diosgyor	15	5	5	5	18	21	15
Csepel	15	5	4	6	17	18	14
BVSC-Novep	15	5	3	7	14	17	13
Pecs MSC	15	5	2	8	16	20	12
Siofok	15	5	2	8	15	21	12
Gyor Raba ETO	15	3	6	6	13	19	12
Ujpest TE	14	2	7	5	16	20	11
Veszprem	15	3	3	9	15	30	9
Nyiregyhaza	15	2	4	9	9	21	8

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	16	14	1	1	46	9	29
Dinamo	16	12	3	1	41	9	27
Univ. Craiova	16	8	3	5	28	21	19
Gloria Bistrita	16	8	3	5	21	14	19
Univ. Cluj	16	9	1	6	17	16	19
Rapid Bucharest	16	7	4	5	22	16	18
Sportul Student.	16	7	4	5	25	22	18
Otelul Galati	16	7	4	5	19	17	18
Elect. Craiova	16	7	3	6	13	13	17
FC Inter Sibiu	16	6	3	7	19	23	15
Pol. Timisoara	16	4	6	6	15	26	14
FC Ploiesti	16	6	1	9	24	23	13
Dacia Un. Braila	16	4	4	8	14	20	12
Farul Constanta	16	4	3	9	20	33	11
Progresul	16	3	5	8	16	29	11
Selenica Bacau	16	4	3	9	9	25	11
FC Brasov	16	4	2	10	11	22	10
CSM Resita	16	2	3	11	14	36	7

LITHUANIA
(after first round)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zalgiris	13	10	2	1	32	6	22
Ekranas	13	10	2	1	27	3	22
Panerys	13	10	1	2	34	14	21
Sirijus	13	7	4	2	20	7	18
Banga Kaunas	13	7	3	3	24	9	17
ROMAR	13	6	2	5	13	13	14
G-A Klaipeda	13	4	5	4	16	13	13
Gelezinis Vilkas	13	3	6	4	12	17	12
Inkaras Kaunas	13	4	3	6	16	20	11
Lietuvoss	13	3	3	7	15	20	9
Snaige Alytus	13	3	2	8	8	27	8
Sakalas Siauliai	13	2	2	9	8	23	6
Elek. Taurage	13	2	2	9	6	26	6
Minija Kretinga	13	1	1	11	5	38	3

LATVIA
(final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skonto Riga	22	18	2	2	51	10	38
RAF Jelgava	22	17	4	1	43	6	38
VEF Riga	22	14	5	3	46	14	33
Pardaugava	22	13	3	6	45	22	29
Daugava Riga	22	11	6	5	48	19	28
Olimpija Liepaja	22	10	5	7	33	25	25
Daugavpils	22	8	3	11	25	36	19
Torpedo Riga	22	5	7	10	28	40	17
Varogs Rezekne	22	7	2	13	27	43	16
Gauja Valmiera	22	6	3	13	26	48	15
Starts Broceni	22	2	0	20	19	73	4
Dilars Ilukste	22	0	2	20	10	65	2

Play-off:
Skonto Riga 3
RAF Jelgava 2

HOLLAND

Coach Louis makes the right choice

BOBBY ROBSON'S advice to Graham Taylor, his successor as England manager, was to be honest and admit your mistakes.

Louis Van Gaal, manager of Ajax, is not like that. He is an ex-player, but don't forget he is also an ex-teacher! Van Gaal made a costly blunder when he announced to the media he could not see any future with Ajax for Dutch international left-winger Bryan Roy.

The rest is history. Ajax collected about £900,000 from Italian club Foggia for Roy, so much below their own valuation it did not sound true.

Yet luck can play an important part in a manager's career.

For instance Van Gaal has shown to the soccer world another talented left-winger, 19-year-old Edgar Davids, yet another product from Ajax's own soccer school, and one of the Ajax team who knocked Kaiserslautern out of the UEFA Cup.

Ajax took a two-goal lead to Germany for the second leg, and the goal that sent them into the quarter-finals was scored by Rob Alflen, chosen by Van Gaal to replace Michel Kreek, who had been out of form.

Ajax have not lost in all their last 18 UEFA ties. Kaiserslautern had not lost at home since 1980! Now people are asking Van Gaal why PSV stay top of the Dutch League, while Ajax continue to drop points here and there.

Despite the early-season running, there are rarely more than two clubs involved in the race during the final two months of the season.

Ajax still have lots of talent for attacking football, but concentration can be difficult to hold against low-placed teams with only fight to offer.

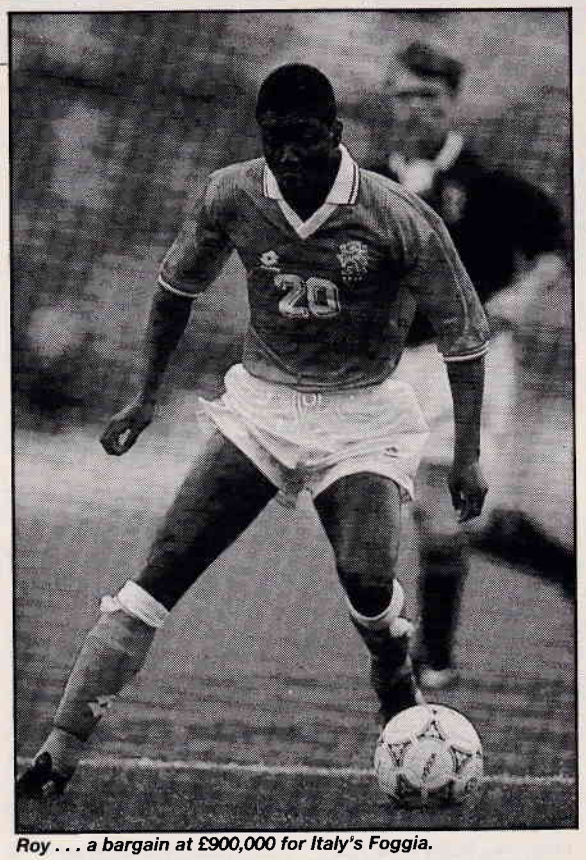
Nothing is certain in football, but it begins to look the other way around for PSV . . . yet another League title, but bye-bye Europe, after one point from their first two Champions League games.

Marco Van Basten said before Milan beat PSV 2-1 in Eindhoven: "We don't underestimate anyone, but we honestly believe PSV are our only real challengers."

Wim Kieft was honest after that defeat when he said: "Adri Van Tiggelen was suspended and Berry Van Aerle and Erwin Koeman injured. It was too much of a handicap to be without key players against a team as good as Milan.

"Serie A is a bit different from our league."

ERIC **NICHOLLS**



Roy . . . a bargain at £900,000 for Italy's Foggia.

BELGIUM

Waregem on the warpath

WAREGEM are proving the big surprise in Belgium, shooting plenty of goals and shooting up the table as a result.

Their 8-0 thrashing of the inaptly-named Boom was their third successive victory, and they followed with a 2-1 win away to Club Brugge.

The Waregem accent on attack brought them 41 goals in 14 games and earned them third place, behind Anderlecht and Standard Liege, whose 1-1 draw at Sclessin left Anderlecht two points clear at the top.

They trailed to a Wilmots goal for more than an hour before Van Vossen equalised.

Club Brugge have hit a bad spell, their defeat by Waregem following a 3-1 reverse in the Bruges derby against Cercle.

Josip Weber's hat-trick in that match took his total of goals to 17 in 13 matches, six ahead of Malbasa of Charleroi and Vidmar of Waregem.

Weber is mobile, intelligent

CRIS **FREDDI** tells of players who reached international status and then had to wait a long, long time for another call

Gaps between caps

WHEN Bruce Grobbelaar finally won his battle to represent Zimbabwe again, and played in the World Cup qualifier against South Africa, he was winning his first cap since August 1984 — a gap of only 12 days short of eight years. A record? If so, only in Africa.

The first player to wait more than eight years between internationals was the Old Etonian Arthur Dunn, who played up front for England in 1883 and 1884 (scoring twice on his debut) then as right back and captain against Wales and Scotland in 1892. The name survives — the Arthur Dunn Cup is still played for by public school old boys.

The first player to wait more than a decade was Bob Kelso of Scotland, who took part in the 10-2 win over Ireland in 1888 before moving to Newcastle, and was recalled (as captain, against the same country) after going back across the border.

He was followed by that inimitable old pragmatist Billy McCracken of Newcastle, virtual inventor of the offside tactic. World War I and a well-publicised split with the selectors kept him out of the Irish team between the matches against England in 1907 and 1919.

His international career lasted 21 years and he played for Ireland until he was 40.

His 12 year absence survived as a record until Bertus de Harder appeared against Denmark in 1955. He had not played for Holland since scoring twice against Belgium in 1940.

The longest gap which did not involve a world war belonged to the remarkable Jan Jongbloed. He went on as substitute goalkeeper for Holland against Denmark in 1962, but could not compete with the likes of Eddy Pieters-Graafland and Jan van Beveren, and looked a classic one-cap wonder.

Carter . . . first post-war goal.

But he was recalled just before the 1974 World Cup finals, in which he conceded only three goals (including an own goal and a penalty) as Holland finished runners-up. He was brought back in time to play in the final again in 1978, and lost for the second time.

Ian Callaghan almost matched Jongloed's peacetime sabbatical.

He was one of three wingers dropped after one match each in the 1966 World Cup, then was summoned in 1977 by new England manager Ron Greenwood, who tried to match World Cup rivals Italy's use of the Juventus bloc by picking six Liverpool players (plus Kevin Keegan, who had just gone to Hamburg).

England drew 0-0 with the Swiss and scored only twice against Luxembourg, making World Cup qualification all but impossible, so the Callaghan experiment ended after two matches.

Eduard Streltsov, USSR's greatest striker, who was still a teenager when he scored a hat-trick in each of his first two internationals, was gaoled for alleged involvement in a sexual assault, just before the 1958 World Cup finals and did not return to the national team until late in 1966. His outstanding performance at a snowbound Wembley in 1967 showed what the Soviet Union had missed in three World Cups.

Felix Romano scored in his only match for France, in 1913, before being picked eight years later by Italy. He was born in Switzerland.

The great Alfredo Di Stefano had to wait even longer after changing allegiance.

Having crammed all his appearances for Argentina into December 1947, he moved to Colombia and then to Real Madrid, and played his first match as a naturalised Spaniard in 1957, against Holland.

With typical timing and showmanship, he scored a hat-trick.

Horatio Carter scored in the first minute of England's first postwar international, a 7-2 win in Belfast.

Carter won six caps pre-war, with Sunderland, and seven post-war, with Derby.

He also played for both clubs in FA Cup Finals, being one of only two men to gain cup medals on either side of Hitler's intervention.

Van Vossen . . . equaliser.

and enterprising, able to score with either foot and with neat flicks of the head. Raymond Goethals of Marseille is one of the coaches impressed by him.

Club Brugge have slipped to eight points behind Anderlecht, and seem unlikely to retain their title. Waregem, who have scored three fives as well as that eight so far, might last the pace well enough to win the championship for the first time.

GILBERT **ROUSSELLE**

SWITZERLAND

Stielike in the dumps

SWISS experts are at pains to explain the disappointing form of the country's leading club, Grasshopper Zurich.

In the so-called qualifying phase from which the top eight clubs contest the championship after the winter break, the Hoppers had problems of avoiding the drop into the relegation play-off.

Even redoubtable Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker has not found the right recipe and is struggling to bring some order into his demoralised men. He even left out his top scorer, Brazilian Elber de Souza (right), allegedly for disciplinary reasons, but the performance of the side still left a lot to be desired.

Xamax Neuchatel also were in trouble although remarkably they had the best average attendance, 9,591. The league's average gate of 5,539 is well below expectations.

Team manager Uli Stielike, is disillusioned: "I honestly admit that I have had enough. For the first time in my life I am not enjoying football. But what can I do when the players don't follow my instructions?

"They make the same mistakes over and over again. Only the understanding of president Gilbert Facchinetti is keeping my spirits up."

Servette led the table together with surprising Young Boys. Strange to recall that the "Servettiens" used to make headlines for all the wrong reasons. Too many officials wielding too much influence often caused mayhem.

At one stage the club were close to bankruptcy. Now, president Paul-Annick Weiller, who hails from the French province of Alsace but has been associated with Servette for 35 years, has brought stability, tranquillity and, fortunately, a lot of money.

Not so long ago there were no funds to pay the players' wages. The debits were estimated at £5 million.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

Jongbloed in action against Sweden at the 1974 World Cup.

Yrs	Days	Name	Country	From	To
14	326	Bertus DE HARDER	Holland	21/04/40	13/03/55
14	251	Billy McCRACKEN	Ireland	16/02/07	25/10/19
11	309	Ioanis VAZOS	Greece	19/06/36	23/04/48
11	249	Jan JONGBLOED	Holland	26/09/62	26/05/74
11	189	Alex MACKIE	Ireland	14/04/23	20/10/34
11	59	Ian CALLAGHAN	England	20/07/66	07/09/77
10	158	Jackie HENNESSEY	Eire	27/11/55	04/05/66
10	29	Kleanthis MAROPOULOS	Greece	25/03/38	23/04/48
10	29	Kleanthis VIKELIDIS	Greece	25/03/38	23/04/48
10	2	Bob KELSO	Scotland	24/03/88	26/03/98
9	347	Andy DUCAT	England	02/04/10	15/03/20
9	258	Jakob STREITLE	Germany/W. Germany	09.03.41	22/11/50
9	189	Hector GOETINCK	Belgium	26/04/14	01/11/23
9	164	Raich CARTER	England	17/04/37	28/09/46
9	80	Carlos ARANGO	Colombia	27/12/47	17/03/57
9	76	VALDIR	Brazil	18/03/56	02/06/65
9	51	Ignacio EIZAGUIRRE	Spain	19/01/36	11/03/45
9	33	Alfredo DI STEFANO	Argentina/Spain	28/12/47	30/01/57
9	9	Paddy AMBROSE	Eire	1/05/55	10/05/64
9	5	Eduard PENDORF (Edy)	Germany	21/03/13	26/10/22
8	316	Rinus BENNAARS	Holland	19/05/54	31/03/63
8	263	Srdan MRKUSIC	Yugoslavia	23/03/41	11/12/49
8	242	Juste BROUZES	France	31/05/14	28/01/23
8	242	Pierre CHAYRIGUES	France	31/05/14	28/01/23
8	205	Ademir DA GUIA	Brazil	07/09/65	31/03/74
8	200	Felix ROMANO	France/Italy	20/04/13	06/11/21
8	182	Eduard STRELTSOV	USSR	18/05/58	16/11/66
8	165	Gerard KUPPEN	Holland	28/11/37	12/05/46
8	154	Jimmy DELANEY	Scotland	09/11/38	12/04/47
8	144	Fritz WALTER	Germany/	22/11/42	15/04/51
8	135	Ljubomir LOVRIC	Yugoslavia	31/03/40	13/08/48
8	130	Henk PELLIKAAN	Holland	31/10/37	10/03/46
8	113	Karel KOLSKY	Czecho	24/04/38	14/09/46
8	32	Tommy TRAYNOR	Eire	07/03/54	08/04/62
8	98	Herbert BURDENSKI	Germany/W. Germany	16/08/42	22/11/50
8	53	Cas RUFFELSE	Holland	17/04/11	09/06/19
8	25	Georg VOLKERT	W.Germany	10/05/69	05/06/77
8	10	Arthur DUNN	England	25/02/84	05/03/92
8	0	Andreas KUPFER	Germany/W. Germany	22/11/42	22/11/50

AUSTRIA

Wacker smacker

FOOTBALL is still mourning the untimely death of Ernst Happel from cancer at 66.

Happel won 19 titles with eight clubs in five countries. Only at Sevilla did he draw a blank. He was Austria's national team manager when he died, four days before the friendly international against Germany, and is succeeded by his assistant Dieter Constantini (above).

In the league championship the dizzy rise of Wiener Sport Klub came to a sticky end when they crashed to Wacker Innsbruck by 6-0. After a minute's silence for former boss Happel, Wacker gave their best display of the season.

Christoph Westerthaler scored four goals — as many as in the previous 20 games.

But in the 22nd and final round before the winter break, Innsbruck crashed to improving Admira Wacker by 4-0. This allowed Austria Salzburg to take over at the top, where only two points divided the leading six clubs.

The top scorer is Innsbruck's Czechoslovak, Vaclav Danek, with 18 goals.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

TABLES

AUSTRIA
Autumn championship final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria Salzburg	22	11	7	4	45	27	29
Wacker Innsbruck	22	10	8	4	45	22	28
Austria Vienna	22	12	4	6	47	25	28
Sportclub	22	11	5	6	31	33	27
Rapid	22	9	8	5	34	26	26
Admira Wacker	22	11	3	8	47	23	25
St Pölten	22	6	10	6	34	37	22
Vorwaerts Steyr	22	8	6	8	30	34	22
VfB Modling	22	8	3	11	39	41	19
LASK	22	4	6	12	21	46	14
Stahl Linz	22	3	6	13	19	43	12
Sturm Graz	22	3	6	13	23	49	12

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	15	12	2	1	38	13	26
Standard	15	10	2	3	31	19	22
Gent	15	8	3	4	24	15	19
Waregem	15	8	3	4	42	22	19
Mechelen	15	9	0	6	26	21	18
Charleroi	15	7	3	5	29	23	17
Club Brugge	15	7	3	5	17	12	17
Lierse	15	6	4	5	23	20	16
Molenbeek	15	4	8	3	22	16	16
Antwerp	15	7	1	7	26	28	15
Cercle	15	6	3	6	37	34	15
Beveren	15	6	3	6	16	20	15
FC Liege	15	5	3	7	23	33	13
Genk	15	3	6	6	17	17	12
Boom	15	4	1	10	26	45	9
Lokeren	15	3	2	10	15	28	8
Ekeren	15	3	2	10	20	38	8
Lommel	15	2	1	12	13	40	5

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Copenhagen	18	9	8	1	29	14	26
OB Odense	18	10	3	5	31	17	23
AaB Aalborg	18	7	7	4	25	17	21
Brondby	18	6	9	3	21	20	21
Silkeborg	18	7	5	6	30	16	19
AGF Aarhus	18	6	7	5	24	21	19
Lyngby	18	4	8	6	20	22	16
Naestved	18	4	7	7	25	35	15
Frem	18	3	8	7	23	39	14
B1909 Odense	17	0	6	12	15	42	6

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	14	11	2	1	41	8	24
MVV Maastricht	15	8	4	3	26	22	20
Feyenoord	14	7	5	2	33	16	19
FC Twente	14	8	3	3	27	12	19
Ajax	13	7	4	2	29	11	18
FC Utrecht	13	7	4	2	22	14	18
Vitesse Arnhem	14	5	7	2	22	11	17
Willem II Tilburg	14	5	5	4	14	10	15
Sparta Rotterdam	13	3	7	3	15	15	13
FC Groningen	15	4	5	6	15	23	13
Roda JC	14	6	0	8	25	27	12
RKC Waalwijk	14	4	4	6	14	27	12
GA Eagles	15	4	4	7	20	29	12
FC Volendam	13	3	5	5	16	13	11
Cambuur	14	2	5	7	11	23	9
SVV/Dordrecht	14	2	3	9	9	29	7
FC Den Bosch	15	1	5	9	12	37	7
Fortuna Sittard	14	2	2	10	11	35	6

SWITZERLAND
Autumn championship final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Young Boys	22	11	6	5	44	30	28
Servette	22	10	7	5	32	18	27
Sion	22	8	10	4	28	21	26
Lausanne	22	7	10	5	28	21	24
Aarau	22	9	6	7	30	34	24
Zurich	22	8	7	7	21	22	23
Neuchatel Xamax	22	6	10	6	30	26	22
Lugano	22	7	8	7	29	28	22
Grasshoppers	22	5	11	6	27	27	21
St. Gall	22	4	10	8	21	28	18
Chiasso	22	5	6	11	15	26	16
Bulle	22	4	5	13	18	42	13

The top eight clubs advance to the championship phase starting in March after the winter break. The bottom four compete in relegation/promotion play-offs with leading second divison teams.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cork City	16	10	2	4	29	19	22
Derry City	16	7	8	1	14	7	22
Bohemians	16	7	7	2	29	9	21
Shelbourne	16	7	5	4	27	18	19
Dundalk	16	6	7	3	23	17	19
St Patrick's	16	4	10	2	14	11	18
Limerick	16	3	9	4	16	14	15
Shamrock Rov.	16	4	6	6	23	17	14
Drogheda Utd	16	3	7	6	12	22	13
Sligo Rovers	16	3	6	7	7	21	12
Waterford Utd	16	4	1	11	13	36	9
Bray Wanderers	16	1	6	9	8	24	8

DENMARK

Frem go spinning out

FREM'S nightmare autumn came to an almost inevitable conclusion with a dramatic draw against Naestved which sent them spinning out of the Superliga

The little Copenhagen club knew victory at Naestved would save their place in the top flight, and with 10 minutes to go they were in total command, leading 2-0.

But Soren Juel pulled one goal back, and four minutes from time captain Jesper Bo Pedersen grabbed a shock equaliser to keep the home side up.

It was the final twist of the knife for Frem, who finished third last season, earning a place in the UEFA Cup.

Coach Ole Morch said: "Usually I'm very talkative, but I don't know what to say. I'm shell-shocked, and can't understand what happened."

Relegation means that five Frem players will lose their jobs as they trim the staff to 18.

The system in the 10-team Danish league is that the bottom two at the end of the first half of the season go down to a qualification league, while the remaining eight fight out the title after a winter break.

The new FC Copenhagen club led at the winter break, but they were forced to play their final few matches away from the refurbished Idraetsparken after the "great grass scandal."

The new stadium was opened on September 1, but by mid-November a heating system had allegedly malfunctioned leaving the pitch unplayable. It is now being re-turfed, and the authorities are in a desperate race to get the ground ready for the World Cup qualifier at home to Spain in March.

If they don't succeed, the game will be switched to Brondby, with a huge financial loss because that ground holds only 10,000 fans.

Danish soccer was delighted, though, to learn that the increase to 16 teams for the 1996 European Championship in England means they will automatically qualify as holders.

But even then DBU secretary Jim Stjerne Hansen was worried about the financial implications of having no qualification matches. A strange world!

The first half of the Superliga brought a rise in attendances of about seven per cent, but that was muddled by FC Copenhagen giving away 5,000 free tickets for each home match.

In reality, the economic climate is closing in on Danish soccer, and full-time football is looking a luxury few clubs can afford. Former champions Brondby were only saved from extinction when creditors agreed to freeze debts until 1999.

JIM **HOLDEN**

SWEDEN

SWEDEN made the best possible start to their World Cup campaign with three straight wins.

A potentially awkward tie in Israel brought a fine 3-1 victory for Tommy Svensson's men.

For once, Anders Limpar showed the brighter side of his play with a brilliant early goal and consistently good touches.

Limpar is often the big question mark of the Swedish team, and some have accused Svensson of being too patient with him.

Now, however, he is being hailed as one of the leaders of Sweden's charge towards the '94 finals — as is another eternally controversial figure, Martin Dahlin (right).

"I haven't had a good time with Monchengladbach," Dahlin admits.

"But I am strong mentally and I have learned to bite my teeth together. When I was left out of the team, I just kept working harder.

"Now I will challenge everyone who wants to take the national shirt away from me."

Dahlin's 10 goals make him Sweden's top scorer during Svensson's two-year reign.

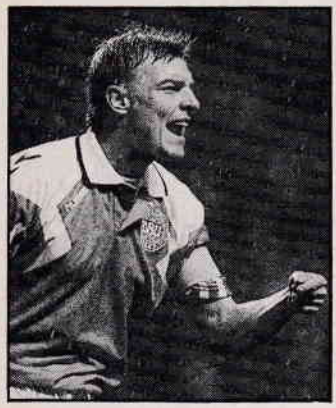
IFK Gothenburg did well to put behind a disappointing season and reach the last eight of the Champions' Cup. Financially they hit a jackpot, despite the merciless 4-0 defeat by Milan.

IFK sold defender Tore Pedersen and former top scorer Kaj Eskelinen to Norway's Brann Bergen, but signed Swedish international Joackim Bjorklund, a nephew of national coach Svensson and a recent target for

LIGHT ON SPO LARS OLSEN

HIGHS AND LOWS

A remarkable year for the skipper



DANISH captain Lars Olsen (above) must be the most unlikely player ever to lead a side to one of the world's major football honours.

When he held up the European Championship trophy last summer you might have expected clubs to be clamouring at his door.

But his Turkish club Trabzonspor made it clear that would be in the reserves all year if he stayed. The only serious offer to sign him came from Belgian Second Division club Seraing.

Olsen's philosphical nature has helped him through a year of incredible highs and lows. He says: "At the end of last season all I thought about was a holiday with time to consider my future.

"I enjoyed my time in Turkey, but they bought two Russian players and it was obvious I was not in their plans.

"Then suddenly Denmark were called into the European Championship because of the expulsion of Yugoslavia.

"We had no time to worry about the event, and I'm sure that helped us.

"Even now I cannot believe it happened. The only time I really understood was on the day we returned to Copenhagen. There were more than half a million people on the streets, from a country of just five million."

But despite his sterling performances as sweeper in the Danish side, Olsen was not in demand after the finals.

He says: "I was very disappointed and confused at the time. There were whispers about clubs in Holland and Germany, but that was all.

"I didn't have much time to find a new club, so when Seraing made the only serious offer I found out they were a good, ambitious club and joined them.

"The Danish manager, Richard Moller Nielsen, told me it would not affect my national place, and I have no regrets."

Seraing are currently top of their division and looking good for promotion. Olsen is now 31, but believes he can play at the highest level certainly until the 1994 World Cup finals in the US.

Denmark's start to the qualification group was slow, with three 0-0 draws followed by a dour 1-0 win in Northern Ireland. Olsen was praised after that victory, critics feeling his move to Belgium had rekindled his best form.

He says: "My biggest worry is that we reach the last match, away to Spain, needing a good result. The Spanish have been a bogey side for us over the years.

"But we have talent, and we have tremendous friendship and collective spirit which means so much in modern football."

Olsen has won 61 caps for Denmark, following in the footsteps, as sweeper, of the great Morten Olsen (no relation).

He says: "Morten taught me a great deal, as a player and then when he was my coach at Brondby.

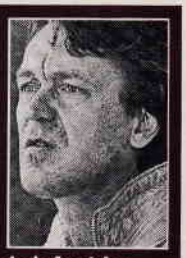
They signed me from Koge in 1985, and I won five Danish titles with them in seven years. The other two seasons we were second. But now Brondby have money troubles and most of the players have been sold.

"I have won many trophies in my career and you can't do better than be captain of a country which wins a great international tournament. Not many players in history can say that."

JIM **HOLDEN**

FINLAND

Vakkila resigns



FINLAND'S 2-1 defeat by France in Paris led to national coach Jukka Vakkila's resignation.

Vakkila (above) had held the job for five seasons and during that time Finland played 48 matches, won seven, drew 20 and lost 21, with goals 35-68.

The main case against Vakkila was that Finland have not won since May 1991, 2-0 against Malta, and had begun the World Cup qualifiers with three defeats.

"There are no dramatic elements involved," Vakkila says. "As a professional I must shoulder responsibility for bad results and make way for a new man. Still, I don't think that we have played as badly as the recent results would suggest."

Vakkila's successor is not yet known. The candidates include former national team players Tommy Lindholm and Jukka Ikalainen.

Following Sweden's example, Finland will enlarge the top division to 14 clubs by 1994.

Limpar looking good again

Limpar . . . brighter performance.

Leeds. IFK are still looking for at least one midfielder and a striker to partner Johnny Ekstrom.

Although GAIS were relegated, there are still four Gothenburg clubs in the Allsvenskan: IFK, Orgryte, Vastra Frolunda and Hacken. This is a stark contrast to Stockholm, left only with AIK.

The battle for supremacy in the Skane area could be hotting up now that Malmo are challenged by both Trelleborg and promoted Helsingborg. The latter are Sweden's best-supported club, drawing an average of 7,000 to their games — even in the Second Division.

Helsingborg were one of Sweden's top clubs in the pre-war years.

Their best-known player was goalkeeper Kalle Svensson, who played in the 1950 and 1958 World Cup finals. The current squad include former Malmo and Benfica goal-getter Mats Magnusson and the promising Henrik Larsson.

Malmo have decided to retain their full-time status after all, but their first-team squad has been trimmed to 16.

Promoted Degerfors were disappointed to lose coach Soren Cratz and top scorer Ulf Ottosson to IFK Norrkoping. Will history repeat itself? In 1943, another young forward went from Degerfors to Norrkoping: Gunnar Nordahl.

PENTTI **HIETANEN**

NORWAY

Success gives Egil a headache

MANAGER Egil Olsen left all his professional players behind when he took his national team to China in December.

In addition to the opportunity of trying out new home-based players, Olsen also wanted to work on the 4-4-2 system in friendly matches against Chinese opposition.

Even though the only official match of the tour finished with a 2-1 defeat against China, Olsen was pleased with what some of the new prospects showed. Jostein Flo (Sogndal) gave the Chinese a lot of problems with his height and scored three goals on the tour.

Flo (above, right) signed a new contract with Sogndal before going on the tour despite the fact that the club had been relegated.

The success that the national side have had the past year has given Olsen new problems. Several players have been given trials by foreign clubs and several have already signed.

No wonder Graham Taylor, Olsen's English counterpart, expressed sympathy: "The success of your national team has won the attention of foreign clubs and it doesn't surprise me that English clubs are leading the hunt."

In addition to Erik Thorstvedt (Tottenham), Gunnar Halle (Oldham) and Pal Lydersen (Arsenal), five more have moved to England — Stige Inge Bjornebye (Liverpool), Henning Berg (Blackburn), Alf Inge Haaland (Nottingham Forest), Frank Strandli (Leeds) and Ole Bjorn Sundgot (Oldham).

Tore Dahlum and Kaare Ingebrigtsen have had trials with Manchester United and Manchester City, but nothing has happened.

Experience abroad is of great value to these players, but if they are not given opportunities to play regular first-team football they could have been better off by staying with Norwegian clubs.

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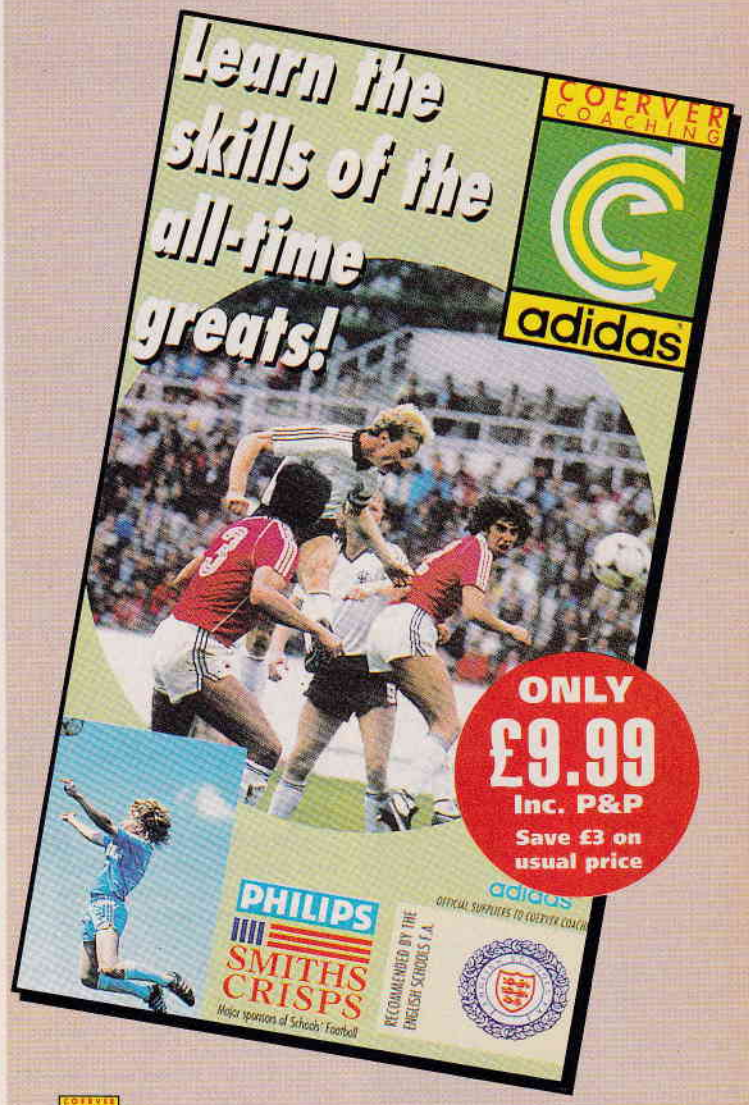

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FROM
JONATHAN SHALLARD
IN TOKYO

1992 WORLD CLUB CUP

Dec 12, National Stadium, Tokyo.
BARCELONA 1 (1) **SAO PAULO** (1) **2**
Stoichkov 13 *Rai 26, 79*

Att: 80,000. **Ref:** Juan Carlos Loustau (Arg).
Man of the match: Rai (Sao Paulo).

BARCELONA	v	SAO PAULO
Zubizarreta	1	Zetti
Ferrer	2	Victor
Guardiola	3	Adilson
Koeman	4	Ronaldo
Eusebio	5	Pintado
Bakero▼	6	Ronaldo Luiz
Amor	7	Muller
Stoichkov	8	Toninho Cerezo▼
Laudrup	9	Palinha
Witschge	10	Rai
Beguiristain▲	11	Cafu
	SUBS	
Alexanco	12	Marcos
Busquets	13	Valber
Nadal▲ (79)	14	Dinho▼ (83)
Juan Carlos	15	Cate
Goicoechea▼ (51)	16	Elivelton

Hot-shot Rai leads Sao Paulo

SAO PAULO'S midfielder and captain Rai used the international stage of the World Club Cup to demonstrate why he is currently the hottest property in Brazilian football.

Rai scored both goals to take the intercontinental cup back to South America after a three-year break and shattered another of Barcelona's dreams for domination of the international club scene. It was an impressive display by Sao Paulo — but a disappointing one by Barcelona.

More misery for Barcelona

This further fuels the rift between coach Johan Cruyff and president Josep Nunez, who had confirmed before leaving for Japan that he intended to stand for another term as club president, despite the consequences this may have for Cruyff's further career at the Nou Camp.

However, the game did not start out that way. The European champions settled first, contrary to the usual trend in the 13 Toyota Cup matches to date.

In superb sunshine and facing a gusting wind, on an immaculate playing surface (even if Cruyff was later to complain puzzlingly that the grass was "too dry") and watched from the royal box by Barcelona Old Boy and neo-Japanese star Gary Lineker, the Catalans took a 13th minute lead as Guardiola created an opening through the middle for Stoichkov and the Bulgarian delivered a perfectly weighted shot into goalkeeper Zetti's top right-hand corner.

At that moment, the Spaniards looked well on course for a certain measure of consolation for their unexpectedly early exit from the Champions' Cup. That elimination had left Barcelona's schedule clear for an earlier than anticipated departure to Tokyo but they surprisingly disdained the opportunity, arriving only three days before the match and three days later than Sao Paulo.

Inevitably perhaps, the difference began to show as the match progressed. Although Cruyff made no express comment to that extent (due, maybe, to the Dutchman's habitual reluctance to admire any errors), his team seemed to have the effects of the trip in their legs as they opted for a cautious pattern of painstakingly constructed triangles rather than a full-blooded commitment to substantiate their advantage.

With the bullish Stoichkov operating effectively as a left-winger and the other front men, Beguiristain and the more pivotal Laudrup, also staying left, the build-up had a lop-sided look which was made more obvious when a couple of crosses from the left found nobody in red and blue within miles of a well-guarded Brazilian goalmouth, where the lanky sweeper Ronaldo reigned supreme.

And any intention of Barca's leftist look producing a corridor of space down the right for exploitation by Guardiola, Amor or the mobile Ferrer certainly never paid off either.

Instead of augmenting their lead, Barcelona lost it. A marvellous dummy on the left by Muller made a fool of Ferrer and his waist-high cross evaded Zubizarreta and Rai, charging in with the predator's eye, contrived to knock it into the net off his midriff.

To be back on level terms after 26

Turning . . . Sao Paulo captain Rai wins possession from Barcelona's Witschge (above).

Battling . . . Amor is crowded out by Ronaldo Luiz and Ronaldo (below).

Struggling . . . Cafu and Witschge tussle for the ball.

to the top

minutes was maybe a little more than the Brazilians deserved, but the understanding between Rai, Muller and Ronaldo Luiz was always evident and Cafu, intriguingly wearing number 11, was always good for showing pace and creating openings on the right.

Zubizarreta needed to be alert to race out of his area and beat Rai to a ball as the tall Brazilian burst through a sudden gap in a Barcelona defence otherwise well administered by Koeman, but the half ended with two good chances for Barcelona.

Two crosses went begging and Bakero fired back across an empty goalmouth, then right on the break Stoichkov worked Beguiristain clear on the left, but having cleverly committed Zetti the striker hit a feeble shot straight at Ronaldo Luiz covering on the goal line to squander an excellent opportunity to regain the lead.

The power shifted after the interval. More relaxed and growing in confidence, Sao Paulo made the running to the extent that Barcelona mustered only two decent goal attempts in the second period, Zetti touching over Laudrup's drive and Koeman striking a 25-yard free-kick just over the bar.

The pick of the chances were made by Sao Paulo. Zubizarreta needed his wits about him not to pick up a short Ferrer back-pass under pressure then the unhappy keeper hesitated to go for a 50/50 ball with Rai and was saved only by some brilliant defensive covering by Witschge, operating as a regular left-back.

But the Barca captain did better on two other occasions, smothering Muller's cross in a crowded goal area, and racing out to block Cerezo as another Muller cross from the left caused more panic, and Zubizarreta was there again after a disastrous square pass from the rapidly tiring Guardiola left Palhinha free to send Muller away.

Despite all this, the winning goal still came as a surprise. Ferrer fouled Palhinha 23 yards out with 10 minutes to go, Rai took command, touching the ball to Ronaldo Luiz before receiving the short return and launching an inch-perfect shot past a static Barcelona wall and high into the top right hand corner of Zubizarreta's net.

Shortly after, another Rai free-kick just cleared the bar and time ran out with Barcelona's composure going the same way, an expression maybe of frustration at having let a match slip when it could and should have been kept under tighter control.

For Sao Paulo, it was a deserved victory. The Copa Libertadores which entitled them to the Tokyo trip was the proud club's first and the intercontinental title was more than merely cream on the cake, ample reward for a club whose class was evident off the pitch as well as on it.

The influence of Tele Santana was never to be missed either. The maestro's belief in enjoyable, offensive football radiated through his players, none more so than the 37 year-old Cerezo, signed in July and finding in Tokyo the honour which Barcelona had denied him at Wembley last May while still wearing the colours of Sampdoria.

Barcelona, for their part, with a bundle of goals behind them at home (including 15 in the previous three games), found their sophisticated opponents a different proposition than the domestic diet of Tenerife, Cadiz and Zaragoza.

A 4-1 defeat by Sao Paulo in an August friendly should have served as a more serious warning. It went unheeded, and the South Americans now lead the series 18-13 overall and 8-5 since the fixture moved to Tokyo in 1980.

WHAT THEY SAID

SANTANA: Barcelona were better in the first half but our attack was more effective in the second and I was pleased with our defence throughout the game. Generally it was a good game. I'm glad to see how the Japanese fans seemed to be mostly on our side and I believe we have shown that we deserved their support and can justifiably consider ourselves the best club side in the world. What will happen if our best players get big offers from Europe? If you ask me, they should accept and go. But it will be a shame to lose them.

CRUYFF: We got into a very good rhythm in the first ten minutes but then Sao Paulo managed to slow us down and play a more controlled game. There was no problem with our mental or physical approach to the game, but a few of our key players — I won't say which ones — did not play to their potential.

RAI: We deserved to win. We felt Barcelona were trying to put us under pressure even before the game, but we're used to that and have a good spirit in the team. When I scored the winner, I went to Tele Santana to show what I think of him: a great coach and a great man.

● **RAI** spotlight on pages 48-49.

Soccer in court

Kelly adds to the confusion

THE incident which led from the pitch to the dock took place during a match last season.

Torquay's John Uzzell (right) and Brentford's Gary Blissett challenged for the ball in the air, but as Blissett rose his arm came up and struck Uzzell's face, leaving him with a broken cheekbone and a broken eye socket.

Match referee Arthur Smith, who is also chairman of the Referees' Association, viewed the incident as a serious foul and sent Blissett off for deliberate violent conduct.

The FA subsequently found the case against Blissett proved and suspended him for three games.

But a prosecution arose from the incident, with Blissett being accused of causing grievous bodily harm. Eventually the case came to court, with FA chief executive Graham Kelly giving evidence.

He claimed that the incident was 'an ordinary aerial challenge'

He claimed that the incident was: "an ordinary aerial challenge," and said he could attend four games a week and see up to 200 similar challenges.

With the help of Kelly's evidence Blissett was cleared.

But Kelly was in a no-win situation. If he had condemned Blissett's challenge, as the referee and the FA inquiry had done, then Blissett might well have been found guilty

This could have opened a huge can of worms, with injured players encouraged to sue the opponents responsible for their injuries through the civil courts for damages and loss of earnings.

This would have serious ramifications for professional football, setting a dangerous precedent: already a similar case may be brought against Aston Villa's Dean Saunders, who was involved in a tackle which left Chelsea's Paul Elliott with a knee injury that will keep him out of action for the rest of the season.

On the other hand, by defending Blissett, Kelly was considered by many to be almost condoning such challenges.

Either way Kelly could not win. But, having decided on his course of action, he then made matters far worse for himself with his comments, which upset referees, who feel their authority has been undermined, and players, who feel they have been branded thugs.

Through all of this though, our sympathies should lie with John Uzzell. He now suffers from headaches, dizziness and nausea. He has been given a free transfer by Torquay and is out of the game, with a wife, two children and a mortgage.

Kelly said: "I had to decide whether to avoid upsetting referees or to see whether I was free over Christmas to visit Gary Blissett in jail."

This elephantine attempt at humour fell decidedly flat. I wonder if Kelly made time for a visit to Uzzell's home over the festive season?

Another row has been making the headlines, that between England manager Graham Taylor and his former captain Gary Lineker.

Questions about their relationship surfaced during the last six months of Lineker's England career and reached a peak when Lineker was substituted with 27 minutes remaining of his last game, against Sweden.

He was one short of Bobby Charlton's record of 49 England goals, and many felt he had been publicly humiliated.

Now the biography: *Gary Lineker — Strikingly Different*, has revealed that their relationship was often turbulent.

Taylor accused Lineker of using the England tour to the Far East in 1991 to negotiate his move to Japan's Grampus Eight and that his agent, Jon Holmes, organised a campaign to have his client appointed England captain.

Lineker countered by accusing Taylor of unfairly criticising him in the press after below-par performances against the Republic of Ireland and Brazil, and that Taylor's version of his move to Japan was rubbish.

Both became engaged in a tabloid war of words, each claiming he was only defending himself.

It is sad to see Lineker involved in such petty, public squabbling, particularly as his England career is over and he stands to gain nothing from this whole affair.

Taylor too will gain nothing from this row and will merely end up being accused of sour grapes.

Both should have known better than to get involved. Washing dirty laundry in public is never a good idea.

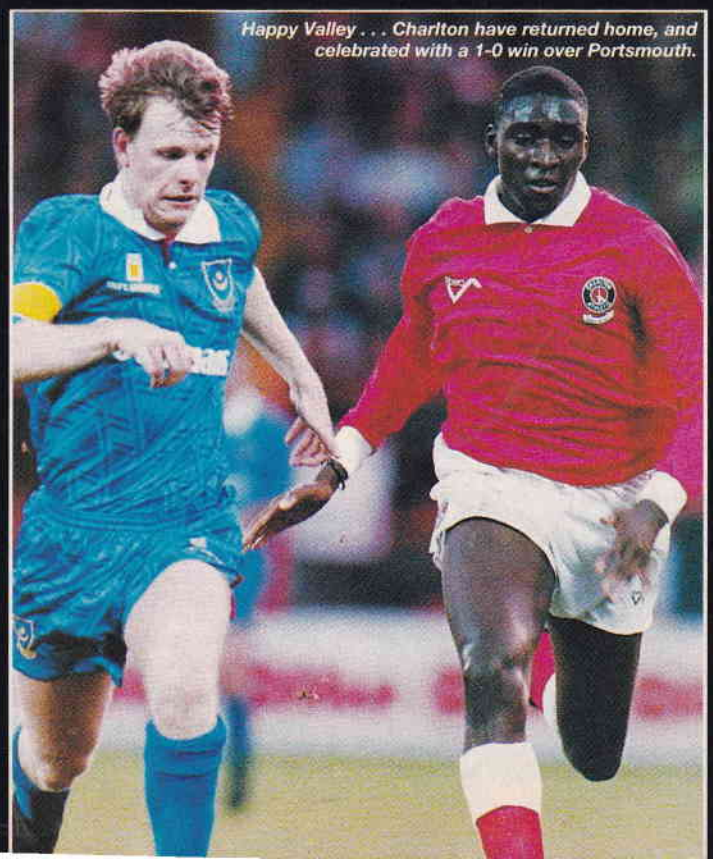
The strangest transfer of the month was Eric Cantona's move from Leeds to Manchester United. The French international had become something of a folk hero with the Leeds fans since joining the club last year, and had spawned a whole cottage industry in Cantona merchandise — T-shirts, caps, scarves, even a pop record.

Howard Wilkinson gambled by paying £1 million for Cantona, whose disciplinary record in France was even worse than the rap record bearing his name, but the gamble payed off as Cantona helped Leeds to the title while staying out of trouble.

Then, suddenly, came the £1,1m move to Old Trafford, which left those loving Leeds fans angry and bemused.

But will Cantona be the answer to the Stretford End's prayers? Possibly.

Cantona is an excellent, skilful striker, but he is not a prolific goalscorer.



Happy Valley . . . Charlton have returned home, and celebrated with a 1-0 win over Portsmouth.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norwich	18	12	3	3	34	31	39
Blackburn	18	8	7	3	28	15	31
Aston Villa	18	8	7	3	28	19	31
Chelsea	18	9	4	5	26	20	31
QPR	18	8	5	5	25	19	29
Arsenal	18	9	2	7	22	19	29
Man Utd	17	7	6	4	18	12	27
Ipswich	18	5	11	2	24	21	26
Man City	17	7	4	6	24	17	25
Liverpool	17	7	4	6	30	24	25
Coventry	18	6	7	5	23	24	25
Middlesbrough	18	6	6	6	30	29	24
Southampton	18	5	7	6	17	19	22
Tottenham	18	5	7	6	18	24	22
Leeds Utd	18	5	6	7	29	32	21
Sheff Wed	18	4	8	6	20	22	20
Oldham	18	4	6	8	29	33	18
Sheff Utd	18	4	6	8	17	25	18
Everton	17	4	4	9	13	21	16
Wimbledon	18	3	6	9	20	28	15
Crystal Palace	18	2	9	7	22	32	15
Nottm. Forest	18	3	5	10	17	28	14

In 15 League games for Leeds last term he hit only three goals.

So how will Cantona fit into his new United team? Perhaps Ferguson will play Cantona and Mark Hughes, hoping they can form a pertnership beneficial to each other and the team.

It will be fascinating to see how Ferguson, a strict disciplinarian, will deal with the free-spirited Cantona.

While all this has been happening in the court room, board room and press room, Norwich City have been quielty consoldiating their position at the top of the Premier League and are now eight points clear.

Their 2-1 win over Wimbledon at Carrow Road was their 12th of the season but their goal difference is only plus three, with 34 scored and 31 conceeded — seven of them coming in the 7-1 hammering at Blackburn.

Because of this defensive frailty, many still seem to think that Norwich are not really genuine championship material. To most, it is a question of when, not if, Norwich start to falter.

Aston Villa are now the bookies' favourites, after victories over QPR, Manchester United and Sheffield Wednesday, but Norwich won 3-2 at Villa Park at the end of November. A win which prompted manager Mike Walker to say: "If we pick up four more points, we should be sure of staying up!"

While all the other challengers have been inconsistent recently, Norwich continue to churn out victories, 10 of them by one-goal margins.

Arsenal's run of six League victories came to a sudden stop at Elland Road where they lost 3-0 to Leeds, followed with defeats by Manchester United and Southampton. Blackburn also have hit a bad patch, with defeats by Spurs and Middlesbrough; and draws with Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton.

Only Chelsea have put together a decent run recently — eight consecutive victories — and while the rest take points off each other, Norwich will be quite happy with the situation.

One happy story: Charlton Athletic's return to The Valley. After seven years and 350 games away from their spiritual home, 8,337 turned up to see their side's 1-0 win over Portsmouth — their first at The Valley since September 25, 1985.

JOHN **KELLY**

● **News from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found on page 56.**

THE ROAD TO SPAIN LIGHT ON IAN RUSH

Long-playing records

Anfield's top shot keeps on scoring

BY DAVID **PROLE**

Yet another FA Cup Final goal for Ian Rush, this time against Everton in 1989.

MARCH 31 in Belgium could be a significant date in Ian Rush's career. One of many. So many they can hardly be counted.

If Rush scores for Wales in their vital World Cup qualifier that day he will set a record for his country, passing the figure of 23 goals that he shares with Trevor Ford and Ivor Allchurch.

A return of 23 goals from 57 games is not a particularly spectacular feat, but many players would be glad to claim it. And although Rush often is criticised for failing to transform club form on to the international stage, few would begrudge him his success.

That record will fall to him, eventually, as so many others have done. Back in 1981, when Rush had not scored in his first nine games for Liverpool — including a League Cup Final replay and a Champions' Cup semi-final — manager Bob Paisley advised him to be more selfish in and around the penalty area.

Paisley probably was not aware that Rush had scored all his team's 14 goals in two games as a schoolboy: unselfishness was not then part of his soccer make-up.

Rush, a lanky, awkward-looking and possibly underweight young man at that time, took Paisley's advice. In his next match, he scored twice, against Leeds. And he has gone on scoring ever since.

Earlier this season he broke Roger Hunt's record of 286 goals in all games for Liverpool, having previously passed the club's individual figures for FA Cup, League Cup and European competition. Now only Hunt's 245 League total remains to be beaten.

Last May, when Rush carefully sidefooted a rebound past Wales and Sunderland goalkeeper Tony Norman, he became the only man to score five FA Cup Final goals. He had scored all the others against Everton, in two pairs, in 1986 and 1989 — four of his remarkable total of 24 in 29 games against them.

He also scored two goals in League Cup Finals, helping to beat Spurs in 1982 but being on the losing side against Arsenal in 1987. That was an ironic way for Rush to lose one of soccer's strangest records: at that point in his career he had scored in 139 senior games for Liverpool and the club had not lost a single one of them.

Even now he has been a loser in only five games out of some 220 in which he has scored for the club.

Yet the facts, impressive as they are, do not tell the full story. As Hunt generously points out: "Ian always had the ability to smell out a chance, like all good scorers do. But he works like a labourer for the team, as well. He never gives opposing defenders a breather, even when he's up front on his own."

Ian Callaghan, who holds the Liverpool record of 846 appearances, is another Rush admirer. "He was a very quiet lad when he came to us from Chester," says Callaghan.

"But he turned into a very, very good all-round player as well as a great finisher. Records are there to be broken, but I don't think anyone will top Ian's figures for Liverpool."

Ian Rush was born in north Wales, not far across the Dee from Liverpool. He is the ninth of ten children and says: "Most of my brothers were as good as me when we were kids. But somehow I had the knack of scoring."

He maintained that knack after, to his Chester-supporting father's great delight, the local club had signed him, and he claimed 17 goals in 39 matches before earning Chester their record fee, £300,000 (also the record for a teenager) through his sale to Liverpool in 1980.

The competition at Anfield was fierce, with Steve Heighway, David Fairclough and David Johnson competing for the right to partner Kenny Dalglish.

Even though Rush made his debut for Wales a few weeks later — with Dalglish in the opposing Scotland team — he did not claim a regular club place until the 1981-82 season.

Since then he has been a remarkably regular attender, in view of the treatment he often receives from defenders, and his role in Liverpool's long string of successes made him an Anfield idol.

His move to Italy was virtually inevitable, but it had a twist that few people expected. Rush went to Juventus, who paid a record £3.2million for him, in June 1987: in just over six seasons at Anfield he had helped the club to win ten major trophies, including the 1984 Champions' Cup.

He also played in the Heysel disaster final against Juventus a year later, and although his move to Turin was not a great success on the playing side, despite four goals in a Cup game against Pescara, the deal perhaps helped, however slightly, to heal the rift between Liverpool and Juventus. Rush, a home-lover if ever there was one, never settled properly in Italy, but his return to Anfield was a great surprise.

Liverpool, with his old scoring partner Dalglish now manager, invoked a "first refusal" proviso in the original deal, and got him back in August 1988 for some £400,000 less than he had brought in.

During his absence, a Liverpool team reinforced by Beardsley, Barnes and Aldridge had stormed to yet another title, but had missed their chance of a double when losing to Wimbledon in the FA Cup Final.

Rush, hit by illness and various niggling injuries, struggled for form and consistency, and even though his arrival as a substitute brought a dramatic climax against Everton at Wembley, he was injured in the championship decider against Arsenal and watched from the dugout as his colleagues lost the title and the double to virtually the last kick.

Since then, however, Rush frequently has appeared at something like his very best — which is saying a lot. His experience enables him to compensate for a natural loss of speed and agility now that he is into his thirties, with injuries taking longer to heal.

His fifth championship medal came in 1990, and after the upheavals of the Dalglish resignation and Souness arrival, he returned from further injuries to set his Cup Final record last spring.

He still looks good for many more goals, with that well-developed nose for a chance, instantaneous response and accurate finish. Few players have been as lethal in one-to-one clashes with advancing goalkeepers.

As Ian Callaghan says: "Players like Rush are blessed with a special gift."

And Rush, worthily well paid for his efforts, can reflect at home in leafy Caldy on the Wirral, with wife, son — and another child on the way — knowing that his gift has helped him to a very special place in football history.

PRO-FILE

IAN RUSH

LIVERPOOL AND WALES

Born: St. Asaph, October 20, 1961.

Previous clubs: Chester, Liverpool, Juventus.

HONOURS

Football League: 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1990.

FA Cup: 1986, 1989, 1992.

League Cup: 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984.

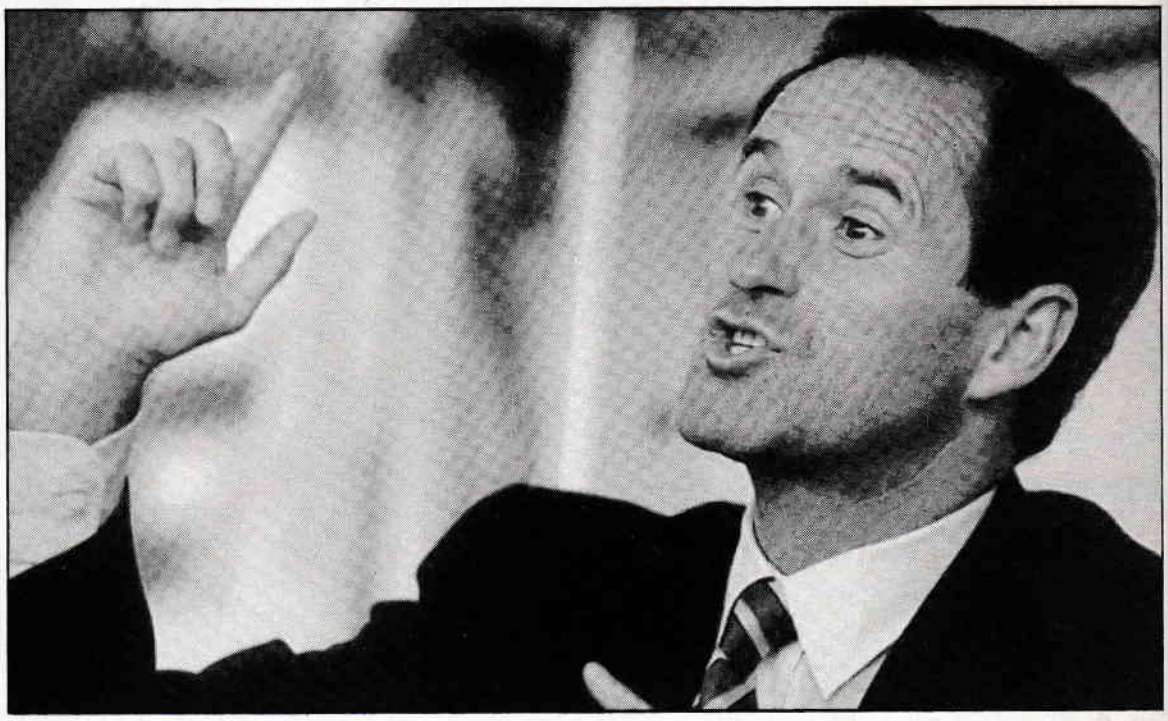
European Champions' Cup: 1984.

Internationals caps: 57 (23 goals, joint national record).

Footballer of the Year: 1984.

FACE FACE

Arsenal's **GEORGE GRAHAM**, seeking to be the Premier League's first championship-winning manager, talks to **KEN GOLDMAN of *WORLD SOCCER*** about some of the game's problems.



Too much quantity and not enough quality

WS: Has the change in the laws for this season caused certain problems?
GG: Yes, most definitely, but it is important to get to the crux of the question as to why the laws were changed. The main reason I would put forward relates to the way Italian football was played. I maintained we did not in this country have a problem with goalkeepers wasting time or literally over-stepping the mark, whereas in Italy the keepers were taking up to 15 steps before releasing the ball.

I also feel we did not have a major problem with encroachment or kicking or throwing the ball away at "set-pieces". Finally we have never had a problem with killing off the game as they have had on the continent.

That may sound strange, but there they are able to kill off games by retaining possession. The majority of defenders are excellent on the ball and if they go one or two up they can keep the ball because of their ability to hold on to it. Unfortunately they frequently abuse that ability.

Conversely, and in some respects, sadly we do not have an abundance of outstanding defenders who have the skills to have kept possession of the ball, played it back to the keeper, and taken the return, and went on doing that. Thus we have received the backlash of football in other countries.

WS: If that is so can you isolate the particular problems thrown up?
GG: Our football has become quicker, and that was the last thing we wanted. Everybody including players, managers, coaches and even the media, are crying out for a much slower game in England, but we got exactly the opposite.

Further, the law seems to have added to the risk of injury, particularly to goalkeepers. Attackers now chase the ball back to the keeper knowing that he cannot pick it up.

This kind of thing leads the fans into a false situation where they think the game is more exciting. There may be some more exciting moments, but it certainly does not lend itself to better-quality football. I do not know of any defender who has thought that the new back-pass rule will help him to improve on the ball.

Furthermore, goalkeepers in general have been more prone to making mistakes and giving away silly goals. When the keeper does clear, the back four know what is happening and rush out towards the halfway line. If the ball is played back over or wide of them, the attacker who has originally chased in towards the keeper is caught offside.

WS: Can there be any legitimate ways round the difficulties which you have stressed?
GG: Coaches and managers nowadays are thinking people and if they change the rules attempts will always be made to overcome the difficulties.

The greatest problem lies in the fact that the people who change the laws, in the main, are not footballing people. They are administrators and do not get advised by people in the game as to what the effects of new proposals are likely to be. The changes in the laws are submitted nearly a year before they come into force and that is sad, because the football people are unaware of what the changes are likely to be.

If they could have a voice in all of this they could advise for and against and on even how attempts will be made to circumvent the changes, if implemented.

WS: Have there been any added physical demands as a result of the changes?
GG: The game is kept flowing but defenders, in particular, are more tired towards the end. There are people who say that if defenders get tired there are more mistakes made and that inevitably leads to more goals.

I argue though that more mistakes do not make better football, and even if it looks more exciting it does not improve quality. And more quality is what we need in our game.

WS: You have been indicating that managers want a greater say in how the game is run. Do you think you have a chance to achieve this?
GG: In football you have to be a super-optimist and must believe that you can attain the impossible. That is why we are all in it, plus the fact that we have to earn a living as well. It is always lovely to think that you are going to win a championship or a cup and you must believe in that.

One of the reasons I joined the Managerial Association and am on the committee is that I have to believe we have a voice and that people are going to want to hear what we say.

Up to now we have been getting media coverage but the decision-making is still done by the administrators, often based on financial decisions which are not always for the good of the game as a whole. That might become the thin end of the wedge because we may be gaining now financially but lose it all in five years.

My suggestion is that decisions should be made to improve the product, not on financial grounds alone.

WS: Does that mean you don't like Monday football?
GG: I am a traditionalist and I like playing on a Saturday. I even think that an occasional Sunday game is quite a good idea. But professional football is now played almost every night of the week.

If you look at Italian football, which everyone says is the best, and I won't argue with that, I do not see too many live TV games there, or indeed Monday games. If they can hold out, why can't we?

Television has a role to play now and in the future but it must not control the game. Football must control TV, not the other way round.

WS: Does the congestion of fixtures mean bigger squads?
GG: The more games played the bigger are the squads needed. What happens then is that the wealthier clubs can carry bigger squads. You get outstanding smaller clubs who might challenge for the championship but are frequently unable to sustain that challenge when they get a glut of injuries, loss of form or suspensions. If the division was smaller in number or the season shorter, they might have a better chance.

Who cares about health care?

No sour grapes . . . Stevens (left) says that life is full of setbacks.

The situation is a joke, says Stevens

ENGLAND expects every man to do his duty — but too often they cannot, because of injury.

Former Brighton, Spurs and England defender Gary Stevens, now familiar for his television and radio appearances, believes that many longer-term injuries could be avoided if clubs invested in better health care.

Stevens is now on TV each weekday morning, presenting a sports programme. He is a regular commentator on BBC Radio 5, and pops up on BSkyB to add his views.

But he is one of the lucky ones among the many players whose careers ended prematurely. Some even end on the scrapheap with nothing but a dole cheque.

"Our general fitness and health care in soccer in this country is a joke," said Stevens.

"Soccer is a professional sport in which the body should be functioning at its best, and yet the game in that respect is run so badly, it's frightening. We have inadequate facilities and professional expertise when it comes to looking after physical welfare. Even injury prevention is not done properly. Players should be educated about warming up. Top athletes will warm up for about 45 minutes before a race. Footballers bang the ball about and jog.

"Fitness is a science and should be treated as much. If a player's body is not conditioned before a game he must be more vulnerable to muscle pulls, tears and strains and tendon problems.

"Then there is the question of physiotherapy. Anyone can become a physio to FA standards if they take a course for a couple of weeks at Lilleshall and then go back for another week a year later. That's no good.

"If I was a manager in charge of players worth millions, I would insist on the best health care for them before and after injury. I'm amazed that so little thought is given to it, and that insurance companies do not insist on better care."

Stevens insists that all this is not sour grapes because his career ended several years before its time.

"My career would have been better if I had not had the injury problems, but life is full of setbacks," he said.

"I still care a great deal about the game. It's in a mess and those in power should take a good long look at things, including themselves, and put the matters to rights."

Stevens maintains that players should have psychological help as well as better fitness methods. "When I was at Spurs a therapist visited the club regularly. He didn't know soccer but he knew about the mind and he certainly helped me. I developed a much more positive attitude.

"Correct diet is another aspect given scant attention. If you add to all that a serious need for education in players to give them a more professional attitude, it's no wonder that the English game is lagging behind the Continentals.

"The buck has to stop with the Football Association. They have the money to put the whole thing right."

As a television presenter millions listen to what Stevens says. For the sake of the game, is there anyone listening at Lancaster Gate?

"I hope so" he says. "I'm not the only one with these views. The game is making a lot of money but it needs a complete overhaul — now."

BERNARD **BALE**

● **GARY STEVENS**, who won seven caps for England, also played in two FA Cup finals but was on the losing side both times.

He scored in Brighton's 2-2 draw with Manchester United in 1983, but they lost the replay by Wembley's record margin, 4-0. And in 1987 he went on as substitute for **Ossie Ardiles** in the 3-2 defeat by Coventry.

The knee injury that eventually forced him to retire happened in a tackle with **Vinnie Jones**, the notorious hard man, but Stevens says: "I'm not bleating about that now. I don't believe players go out with the intention of maiming others."

RESULTS

ENGLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WEEKEND

COVENTRY 2 (Quinn 12, 49)
MANCHESTER CITY 3 (Sheron 56, Simpson 67, Curle pen 79). **Att:** 14,590.

CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Armstrong 23)
NOTTM. FOREST 1 (Bannister 83). **Att:** 15,330.

EVERTON 0
CHELSEA 1 (Fleck 45). **Att:** 17,418.

LEEDS UTD 3 (Fairclough 51, Chapman 56, McAllister 87)
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 30,516.

MAN UTD 3 (McClair 10, 28, Hughes 11)
OLDHAM 0. **Att:** 33,497.

MIDDLESBROUGH 2 (Hendrie 49, Morris 56)
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 14,524.

NORWICH 2 (Pemberton o.g. 60, Robins 81)
SHEFFIELD UTD 1 (Robins 81). **Att:** 14,874.

SHEFFIELD WEDS 1 (Thompson o.g. 16)
IPSWICH TOWN 1 (Kiwomya 74). **Att:** 24,270.

TOTTENHAM 0
ASTON VILLA 0. **Att:** 32,852

SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Le Tissier 23)
BLACKBURN 1 (Moran 38). **Att:** 16,626.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

MIDWEEK

QPR 0
LIVERPOOL 1 (Rosenthal 87). **Att:** 21,056.

WEEKEND

ARSENAL 0
MANCHESTER UTD 1 (Hughes 27). **Att:** 29,739.

ASTON VILLA 2 (Houghton 45, Parker 46)
NORWICH 3 (Phillips 17, Beckford 30, Sutch 49). **Att:** 26,837.

BLACKBURN 1 (Shearer 17)
QPR 0. **Att:** 15,850.

IPSWICH TOWN 1 (Johnson 72)
EVERTON 0. **Att:** 18,034.

LIVERPOOL 5 (McManaman 7, 18, Marsh 9, Rosenthal 62, Hutchison 72)
CRYSTAL PALACE 0. **Att:** 36,380.

MANCHESTER CITY 0
TOTTENHAM 1 (Phelan o.g. 77). **Att:** 25,496.

NOTTM. FOREST 1 (Clough 43)
SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Le Tissier 21, Adams 63). **Att:** 19,942.

OLDHAM 4 (Hallie 21, Pointon 24, Sharp 28, Adams 60)
MIDDLESBROUGH 1 (Falconer 10). **Att:** 12,401.

SHEFFIELD UTD 1 (Quinn 7)
COVENTRY 1 (Pearce o.g. 37). **Att:** 15,625.

WIMBLEDON 1 (Jones pen 89)
SHEFFIELD WEDS 1 (Bart-Williams 14). **Att:** 5,740.

CHELSEA 1 (Townsend 87)
LEEDS UTD 0. **Att:** 24,345.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

MIDWEEK

COCA-COLA (LEAGUE) CUP 3RD ROUND REPLAY

ARSENAL 2
DERBY COUNTY 1

4TH ROUND

CAMBRIDGE 1
OLDHAM 0

LIVERPOOL 1
CRYSTAL PALACE 1

ASTON VILLA 2
IPSWICH TOWN 2

EVERTON 2
CHELSEA 2

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 2
TOTTENHAM 0

SHEFFIELD WEDS 4
QPR 0

BLACKBURN v WATFORD — *postponed*

WEEKEND

COVENTRY 2 (Gallacher 16, Quinn 51)
IPSWICH TOWN 2 (Kiwomya 13, Whitton pen 70). **Att:** 11,294.

CRYSTAL PALACE 2 (Armstrong 42, Southgate 75)
SHEFFIELD UTD 0
Att: 12,361.

LEEDS 1 (Speed 88)
NOTTM. FOREST 4 (Clough 27, Keane 53, 87, Black 54). **Att:** 29,364.

MIDDLESBROUGH 3 (Hendrie 52, 55, 87)
BLACKBURN 2 (Wilcox 44, Phillips o.g. 74). **Att:** 20,096.

NORWICH 2 (Robins 77, Phillips 89)
WIMBLEDON 1 (Sanchez 14). **Att:** 14,161.

QPR 3 (Ferdinand 25, 52, Penrice 30)
OLDHAM 2 (Adams 36, Olney 46). **Att:** 11,804.

SHEFFIELD WEDS. 1 (Bright 26)
ASTON VILLA 2 (Atkinson 19, 67). **Att:** 29,964.

SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Maddison 18, Dowie 53)
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 17,286.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Campbell 88)
CHELSEA 2 (Newton 77, Newton 85). **Att:** 31,540.

MAN UTD 2 (Ince 10, Hughes 74)
MAN CITY 1 (Quinn 75). **Att:** 35,406.

SCOTLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WEEKEND

AIRDRIE 2 (Honor pen 50, Coyle 60)
HIBERNIAN 0 **Att:** 4,200.

CELTIC 3 (Mowbray 18, Creaney 34, O'Neill 86)
FALKIRK 2 (Drinkell 5, McAllister 14). **Att:** 15,979.

DUNDEE 1 (Dodds 35)
DUNDEE UTD 3 (Bollan 28, Connolly 66, Clark 78). **Att:** 12,018.

HEARTS 1 (Baird 62)
RANGERS 1 (McCoist 24). **Att:** 20,831.

PARTICK 0
ABERDEEN 2 (Jess 44, 52). **Att:** 7,133
Abandoned in 56th minute.

ST. JOHNSTONE 0
MOTHERWELL 0. **Att:** 6,074.
Abandoned in 45th minute.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

MIDWEEK

PARTICK 0
ABERDEEN 7 (Shearer 32, 51, 85, Jess 47, Mason 68, Booth 80, Kane 88). **Att:** 4,860.

ST. JOHNSTONE 2 (Curran 33, Maskrey 82)
MOTHERWELL 0. **Att:** 3,582.

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 6 (Irvine 12, Shearer 45, 72, 74, Mason 66, Booth 90)
HEARTS 2 (Baird 47, Hogg 58). **Att:** 14,000.

DUNDEE UTD 0
AIRDRIE 0. **Att:** 5,178.

FALKIRK 2 (Duffy 2, 51)
ST. JOHNSTONE 2 (Cherry 47, Curran 86). **Att:** 4,652.

HIBERNIAN 1 (Jackson 56)
CELTIC 2 (O'Neil 14, 17). **Att:** 13,008.

MOTHERWELL 1 (Arnott 49)
DUNDEE 3 (Gilzean 43, 72, Stainrod 86). **Att:** 3,534.

RANGERS 3 (Steven 55, McSwegan 65, McPherson 86)
PARTICK 0. **Att:** 40,939.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

MIDWEEK

AIRDRIE 1 (Boyle 87)
RANGERS 1 (Brown 35). **Att:** 8,000.

DUNDEE UTD 2 (McInally 44, O'Neill 65)
PARTICK 1 (Britton 59). **Att:** 5,241.

HIBERNIAN 2 (Wright 3, Martin o.g. 82)
MOTHERWELL 2 (Ferguson 29, Kirk 81). **Att:** 4,750.

CELTIC 2 (Slater 7, Vata 47)
ABERDEEN 2 (Jess 11, Kane 32). **Att:** 29,193.

FALKIRK 2 (McCall 27, Drinkell 36)
HEARTS 1 (Robertson pen 45). **Att:** 5,875.

ST. JOHNSTONE 4 (Davies 1, Wright 53, 73, Dodds 82)
DUNDEE UTD 4 (Pitman 53, Welchorst 51, Dodds 82, 88). **Att:** 5,766.

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 3 (Irvine 3, Roddie 40, Mason 78)
ST. JOHNSTONE 0. **Att:** 11,800.

DUNDEE 1 (Stainrod 70)
HIBERNIAN 1 (Jackson 61). **Att:** 5,856.

HEARTS 1 (Baird 72)
AIRDRIE 3 (Coyle 3, Jack 79, Lawrence 81). **Att:** 6,685.

MOTHERWELL 3 (Kirk 34, Martin 75, McGrillen 88)
FALKIRK 1 (Cadette 16). **Att:** 5,018.

PARTICK 2 (Farningham 37, 77)
CELTIC 3 (Payton 12, Grant 28, Creaney 70). **Att:** 13,812.

RANGERS v DUNDEE UTD – *postponed*

By PAUL GARDNER

McCARTNEY HOLDS THE KEY

WORLD CUP '94 is a mere 18 months away, and there is no shortage of top teams keen to play in the US, to find out something about the conditions.

ENGLAND, BRAZIL AND GERMANY IN US CUP '93

The field for the US Cup '93 tells the story: Brazil, Germany and England, all former World Cup winners, will join the US in the tournament, to be played between June 6 and June 19.

The competition is organised by the United States Soccer Federation, working in close co-operation with the 1994 World CuP Organising Committee.

The tournament will be used as a dry run for the World Cup. The idea is to stage games at venues to be used in 1994, and to discover how ticket sales, press accreditation, security, etc., are handled.

The opening game, US v Brazil, will not quite work that way, because it is being staged in New Haven, Connecticut — not a 1994 site, but the nearest stadium available to New York. Giants Stadium, which will be used in 1994, is unavailable.

The final game will be the biggest test of the lot — Germany v England in Detroit's Silverdome. This is a covered stadium, and provides the first chance to test how natural grass, grown indoors, reacts.

The other four games will be played at sites yet to be determined: Boston, Chicago, Washington, and Orlando, plus a second game in Detroit are all possibilities.

The uncertainty can be blamed on Paul McCartney, who is going on tour in the US next summer. Concerts are planned for several of the arenas, and discussions on avoiding clashes are going on.

At a New York press conference attended by the coaches of all four teams, US coach Bora Milutinovic was asked if there was a danger that the US would do poorly against such opponents.

He replied in Spanish (the only one of the coaches to use a translator!), and said that the US team were getting better against Brazil: "We lost 3-0 in Brazil, then earlier this year we lost by only 1-0. Next year we hope to score a goal against Brazil, and in the 1994 World Cup we will beat them."

For Brazil's Carlos Alberto Parreira the tournament seems to complicate an already crowded schedule: US Cup '93 June 6-12, Copa America June 18-July 4, World Cup qualifiers July 18-September 19.

"It means keeping the team together for a four-month period," said Parreira. "That worries me. It's a long time."

When asked if he thought it was a good idea to play the Copa America immediately before the World Cup qualifying games, Parreira replied tersely, "It is not the way that I would have arranged it."

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US CUP '93

Date	Opponents	Venue
June 6	US v Brazil	Yale Bowl, New Haven
June 9	US v England	to be announced
June 10	Brazil v Germany	to be announced
June 12	England v Brazil	to be announced
June 13	US v Germany	to be announced
June 19	Germany v England	Silverdome, Detroit

Together again . . . Brazil and the United States will meet again next June, as they did in last year's Friendship Cup.

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Twenty years ago they played it before acres of empty seats in Miami's huge Orange Bowl. The same thing happened in 1981 when they tried another vast stadium at California's Stanford University.

In 1986 the game went indoors, in Tacoma, and everyone complained about the artificial turf. In 1989 New Jersey's Rutgers University was the host, but the weather turned brutally cold, photographers could not work their equipment, players and spectators alike risked frostbite, and they gave up, sharing the title between Santa Clara and Virginia.

Last year it was Tampa — where the weather was fine but the attendance again sparse. Enter Davidson. A very small college town in North Carolina that undertook to organise this year's final.

The Davidson organisers managed something never done before. They packed their stadium for the final: "You are a part of college soccer history" the PA announcer told the 8,150 fans, "A sell-out crowd."

The University of Virginia were the winners, 2-0 over the University of San Diego. Second-half goals from Nate Friends and captain Erik Imler gave Virginia a third title in four years (including the share in 1989).

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The central defenders are both Afro-Americans from the Washington DC area: Brian Bates and Clint Peay.

Both strikers are white: Ben Crawley and A.J.Wood,.

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After the Games he received an offer from Barcelona, and turned it down to continue his studies at Virginia. He has two more years to go before graduation.

By PAUL **GARDNER**

McCARTNEY HOLDS THE KEY

WORLD CUP '94 is a mere 18 months away, and there is no shortage of top teams keen to play in the US, to find out something about the conditions.

The field for the US Cup '93 tells the story: Brazil, Germany and England, all former World Cup winners, will join the US in the tournament, to be played between June 6 and June 19.

The competition is organised by the United States Soccer Federation, working in close co-operation with the 1994 World CuP Organising Committee.

The tournament will be used as a dry run for the World Cup. The idea is to stage games at venues to be used in 1994, and to discover how ticket sales, press accreditation, security, etc., are handled.

The opening game, US v Brazil, will not quite work that way, because it is being staged in New Haven, Connecticut — not a 1994 site, but the nearest stadium available to New York. Giants Stadium, which will be used in 1994, is unavailable.

The final game will be the biggest test of the lot — Germany v England in Detroit's Silverdome. This is a covered stadium, and provides the first chance to test how natural grass, grown indoors, reacts.

The other four games will be played at sites yet to be determined: Boston, Chicago, Washington, and Orlando, plus a second game in Detroit are all possibilities.

The uncertainty can be blamed on Paul McCartney,.

ENGLAND, BRAZIL AND GERMANY IN US CUP '93

who is going on tour in the US next summer. Concerts are planned for several of the arenas, and discussions on avoiding clashes are going on.

At a New York press conference attended by the coaches of all four teams, US coach Bora Milutinovic was asked if there was a danger that the US would do poorly against such opponents.

He replied in Spanish (the only one of the coaches to use a translator!), and said that the US team were getting better against Brazil: "We lost 3-0 in Brazil, then earlier this year we lost by only 1-0. Next year we hope to score a goal against Brazil, and in the 1994 World Cup we will beat them."

For Brazil's Carlos Alberto Parreira the tournament seems to complicate an already crowded schedule: US Cup '93 June 6-12, Copa America June 18-July 4, World Cup qualifiers July 18-September 19.

"It means keeping the team together for a four-month period," said Parreira. "That worries me. It's a long time."

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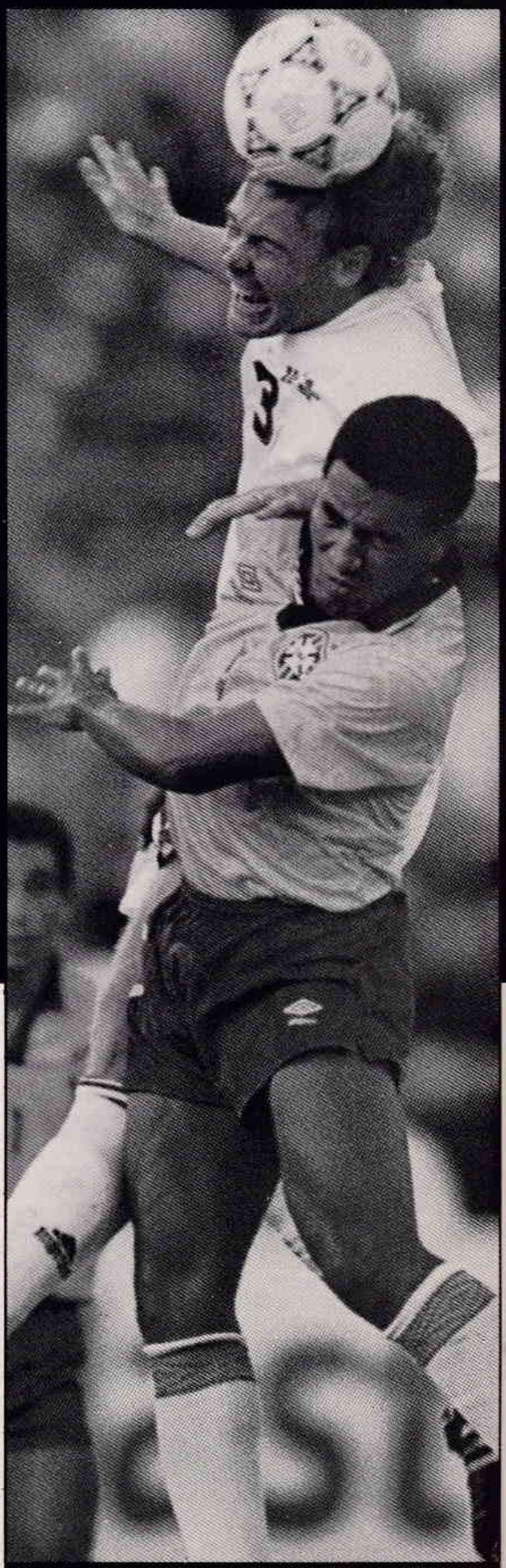

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DIARY

10 NOVEMBER TUESDAY

ACTION: In the European Under-21s, Greece beat Hungary 2-1 and Israel draw 1-1 with Sweden.

GERMANY: National boss Berti Vogts calls on FIFA and UEFA to take action to prevent Italian clubs hoarding star players.

ITALY: Claudio Ranieri quits as Napoli coach, to be replaced by Ottavio Bianchi, who guided Napoli to the championship in 1987 in partnership (of sorts) with Diego Maradona . . . Franco Baresi (right), predictably, returns to the Italy squad for the World Cup tie in Scotland.

SPAIN: Only 5,000 turn out in Seville to see a "prestige" friendly between Maradona/Sevilla and Gascoigne/Lazio end in a 1-1 draw. Gascoigne scores a superb goal for Lazio, Maradona hits the bar.

11 NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY

ACTION: Albania and Latvia draw 1-1, Greece and Hungary draw 0-0 and Israel go down 3-1 at home to Sweden — all in World Cup European qualifying ties . . . Portugal beat Bulgaria 2-1 in a friendly in Paris . . . Cruzeiro and Olimpia Asuncion draw 1-1 in a semi-final return in the South American Supercup.

SPAIN: Barcelona win 2-1 away to Atletico Madrid in the second leg of the Supercup and thus win the trophy 5-2 on aggregate.

TURKEY: Striker Ridvan Dilmen, injured yet again, pulls out of Turkey's World Cup trip to England.

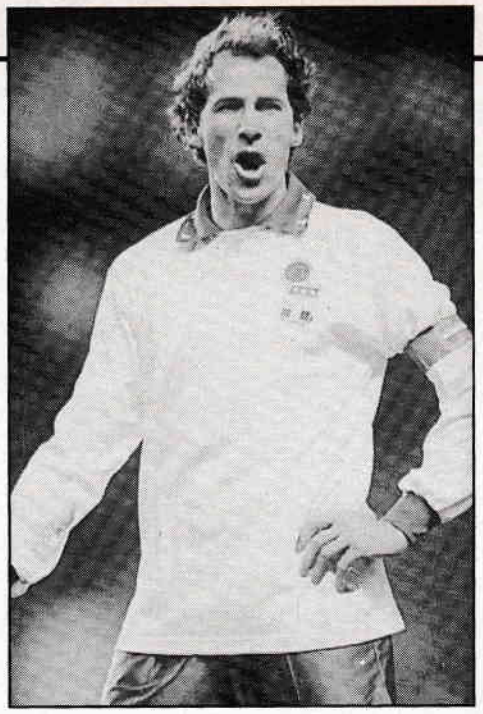
TEAM of the MONTH

BESIKTAS . . . in recognition of the end, at long last, of their 44-match unbeaten run in domestic competition. **Besiktas lost 3-1 at home to old** rivals and neighbours Galatasaray.

12 NOVEMBER THURSDAY

ITALY: Napoli again press the Italian federation to seek action against Sevilla over delayed Maradona transfer payments . . . Foggia sign Holland winger Bryan Roy, who had fallen out with Ajax Amsterdam coach Louis Van Gaal . . . Brescia buy yet another Romanian, striker Dorin Mateut, from UEFA Cup challengers Zaragoza.

PORTUGAL: Benfica's board, infuriated by continuing controversy surrounding the club, ban all coaches and players from talking to the media and severely curtial reporters' access to stadium and training grounds.



13 NOVEMBER FRIDAY

ACTION: Romania beat Czechoslovakia 1-0 in a European Under-21 tie.

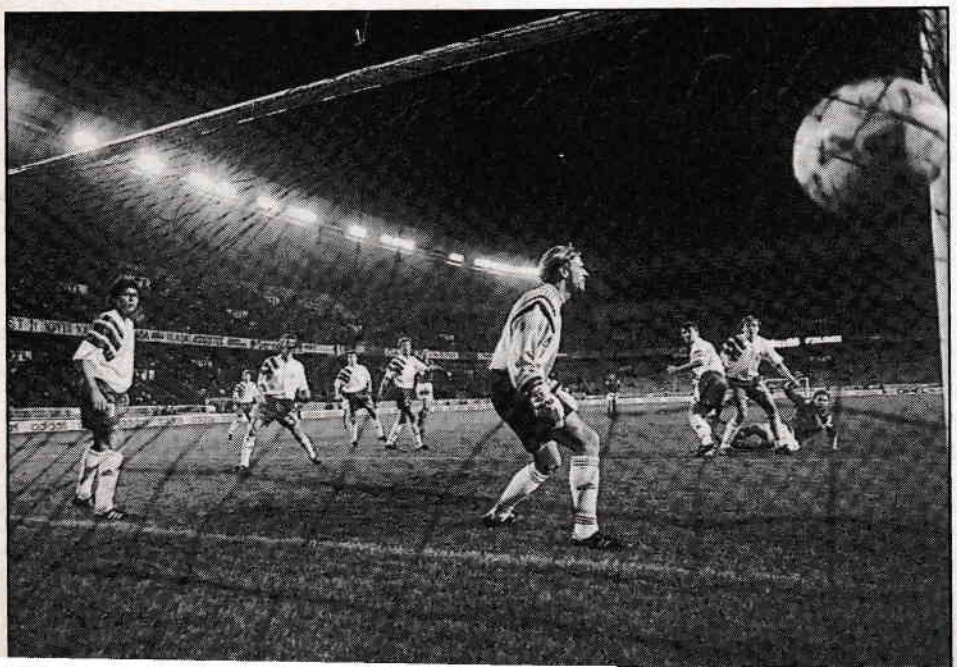
FRANCE: Xavier Gravelaine is injured in training and may miss France's World Cup tie with Finland.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA reject Admira's "goal posts" protest and confirm Antwerp's place in the quarter-finals of the Euroepan Cup-winners' Cup. UEFA fine both Galatasaray and Roma heavily for crowd incidents at recent European club ties . . . reports from Bern suggest Santander, in northern Spain, may be the venue for the Champions' League tie between CSKA and Rangers, because Moscow will be unplayable because of climatic conditions in early December.

14 NOVEMBER SATURDAY

ACTION: France narrowly beat Finland 2-1, Jean-Pierre Papin scores the first (below), while Romania are held 1-1 at home by Czechoslovakia in World Cup ties . . . Finland win 2-1 away to France in a European Under-21 tie . . . a goal three minutes from time by Helmer brings Bayern Munich a 1-0 win over Nurnberg and maintains their two-point lead in the Bundesliga.

AUSTRIA: National manager Ernst Happel dies.



15 NOVEMBER SUNDAY

ACTION: In the CONCACAF World Cup groups, St Vincent lose 1-0 at home to Costa Rica, Mexico beat Honduras 2-0 and West Ham newcomer Alex Bunbury scores a hat-trick as Canada defeat Bermuda 4-2 . . . Argentina open the World Indoor Cup with a 6-2 defeat of Nigeria in Hong Kong . . . PSV Eindhoven go down 2-0 to Utrecht, their first league defeat of the season. Ajax win 3-0 away to Feyenoord . . . Porto's lead in Portugal is cut to one point after they lose 1-0 to neighbours Boavista.

GERMANY: Injured Lothar Matthaus pulls out of Germany's friendly with Austria.

16 NOVEMBER MONDAY

ACTION: Title-holders Brazil beat Australia 3-0 as they open their defence of the World Indoor Cup in Hong Kong.

DENMARK: National manager Richard Moller Nielsen is expected to recall Kaiserslautern midfielder Bjarne Goldbaek for the midweek World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland. Kim Christofte is ruled out after being injured in Koln's weekend game against Bayer Leverkusen.

GERMANY: Koln fine veteran international Pierre Littbarski £4,000 after he left training camp without permission and was involved in a motorway accident returning from a "private appointment" on the eve of the weekend's match against Bayer Leverkusen. Littbarski says: "It was my fault. I broke the rules. The accident was bad luck." Littbarski was substituted during the second half of Saturday's 1-0 win.

ITALY: Arrigo Sacchi dispels all doubts about his feelings on Franco Baresi's return by welcoming him back into the national team camp with fulsome public praise.

SCOTLAND: Rangers midfielder Ian Durrant prepares for his first international in four years as he is named by Scotland coach Andy Roxburgh as a certainty in the starting line-up against Italy.

17 NOVEMBER TUESDAY

ACTION: The United States beat Russia 8-3 in the World Indoor Cup in Hong Kong.

BRAZIL: FIFA president Joao Havelange says in Rio de Janeiro that the change in the back pass rule has been a major success. He promises a crackdown on foul play at the 1994 World Cup finals and says Japan and South Africa, respectively, are favourites to host the 2002 and 2006 World Cups. Havelange adds that an experiment will be undertaken at the 1993 World Youth Cup with sudden death being used if teams are level at 90 minutes. If the score is still level after 30 minutes of sudden death extra time, only then will penalties be used to sort out the winners. He blames high ticket prices and poorly thought-out logistical arrangements for the Olympic soccer flop in Barcelona.

ENGLAND: Controversial Wimbledon midfielder Vinnie Jones is fined a record £20,000 plus a six-month suspended ban, for his comments in a video.

FRANCE: French champions Marseille suspend coach Jean Fernandez for a month and reinstate veteran Raymond Goethals, who has been acting as general manager since the summer. Goethals says: "Fernandez has been very tired lately. The start of the season was very tough and the team's form has suffered." In another controversy, Marseille and UEFA reach agreement on Marseille's need to suspend normal commercial arrangements regarding television and stadia advertising contracts for the matches in the European Cup/Champions' League . . . ex-national team boss Michel Platini says he would happily have stayed on but quit because his proposals to help the national team were turned down by the clubs.

PORTUGAL: Sporting send Bulgaria's Boncho Guentchev and Australia's Vlado Bosinski to Ipswich on trial.

RUSSIA: CSKA Moscow tell UEFA that they are prepared, because of the Russian winter, to play all their three home games in the Champions' League in Germany. Bochum is named as venue for the first match with the other two games in Leverkusen.

PLAYER of the MONTH

HRISTO STOICHKOV . . . for the Spanish League goals which are helping Barcelona overcome the crushing disappointment of their Champions' Cup elimination.

18 NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY

ACTION: A busy day and night of World Cup football with victories for Belgium, England, Denmark and Switzerland and goalless draws between Scotland and Italy as well as Spain and the Irish Republic . . . Germany and Austria draw 0-0 in a friendly in Nuremberg in which Ulf Kirsten and Peter Artner are sent off . . . Italy win 2-1 away to Scotland in the European Under-21 event . . . Racing of Argentina crash 4-0 to Cruzeiro in the first leg of the South American Supercup Final.

BRAZIL: The national squad for the friendly against Uruguay includes eight members of the Sao Paulo club.

GERMANY: Pierre Littbarski is, predictably after his weekend escapade, sacked as skipper by Koln.

ITALY: Police patrol Napoli's training ground after fans are revealed to have attacked players on Tuesday . . . Ancona sign Czechoslovak defender Milos Glonek from Slovan Bratislava to replace Mexico-bound Oscar Ruggeri.

SWEDEN: European Championship defenders Patrik Andersson and Joachim Bjorklund discuss a transfer to Leeds.

19 NOVEMBER THURSDAY

ACTION: Monaco beat the US national team 1-0 in a friendly.

ITALY: Roberto Baggio is ruled out for the rest of the year because of the rib injuries suffered against Scotland. He says: "I've never been kicked so much in my life." . . . Milan take a further £1.5million in mini-season-tickets for the three home matches of the Champions' League.

RUSSIA: National manager Pavel Sadyrin implicates Spartak Vladikavkaz in trying to fix matches with CSKA Moscow and Nijni Novgorod during the recent championship.

SPAIN: The FEF's disciplinary committee exonerates Barcelona from any involvement in paying a "third party" bonus for Tenerife players for their decisive victory over Real Madrid on the last day of last season.

20 NOVEMBER FRIDAY

FRANCE: A full championship round is staged with Nantes drawing 1-1 at Caen but holding a three-point lead over Paris Saint-Germain.

HOLLAND: PSV are told that Erwin Koeman (right) needs an urgent knee operation — adding to their long-term injury list.

ITALY: Marco Van Basten may miss the Milanese derby against Inter after being injured in the midweek televised friendly against Spanish League leaders La Coruna — a match which coach Fabio Capello did not want . . . former Milan president Giuseppe Farina, now living in Spain, hits back at all the criticism he incurred after selling the club to Silvio Berlusconi.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA reject an appeal by Galatasaray against a £20,000 fine imposed for crowd trouble in their UEFA Cup tie against Eintracht Frankfurt.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Former Soviet and Kiev coach Valeri Lobanovski is dismissed as UAE national boss after the fourth-plave finish in the Asian Cup. His job is offered to former Poland manager Antoni Piechniczek.

21 NOVEMBER SATURDAY

ACTION: Bayern Munich hit back from 1-0 down to win 4-2 away to Leverkusen and maintain a three-point lead over Eintracht Frankfurt at the top of the German League . . . PSV shrug off their injuries to beat Dordrecht 4-1 in Holland thank to two goals from Ellerman . . . Porto keep on going out front in Portugal thanks to a 3-0 away win over Gil Vicente. Benfica win 1-0 at Guimaraes . . . in Spain, Real Madrid are held 1-1 in Cadiz but Barcelona win 6-1 away to Zaragoza with two goals apiece for Koeman, Beguiristain and Stoichkov.

SWEDEN: IFK Gothenburg buy Sweden defender Joachim Bjorklund (below) from Brann Bergen to strengthen their defence for next spring's four matches in the Champions' League.

22 NOVEMBER SUNDAY

ACTION: In the CONCACAF section of the World Cup qualifiers, St Vincent lose 4-0 at home to Honduras and Mexico thrash Costa Rica by the same margin. El Salvador beat Jamaica 2-0 . . . Boca Juniors stay top in Argentina despite losing 1-0 at home to Independiente . . . Anderlecht beat Ekeren 2-0 to stay two points clear of Standard Liege in Belgium . . . Corinthians' 4-2 victory over Guarani in Brazil's Sao Paulo Championship is marred by 68 fouls, though nobody is sent off . . . Rob Witschge scores twice as Feyenoord beat Den Bosch 5-1 to go second in the Dutch championship . . . goalkeeper Antonioli presents Inter's De Agostini with an equaliser as the Milan derby finishes 1-1. Brazilian Dunga scores on his debut for Pescara in a 2-0 defeat of Atalanta . . . Portuguese referee Antonio Rola is besieged in the dressing room by fans after bottom club Chaves lose 1-0 at home to Boavista . . . Maradona scores his third league goal, from a free kick, as Sevilla win 2-1 away to Celta. The match ends in chaos with the expulsion of four Celta players and a crowd invasion of the pitch in injury time.

23 NOVEMBER MONDAY

ACTION: The US draw 2-2 with Brazil at the start of the second round of the World Indoor Cup in Hong Kong.

ENGLAND: Leeds call off their bid for Sweden's Patrik Andersson, who accuses Leeds of being logistically rude and financially unrealistic.

CONTINUED OVER

FRANCE: Paris SG may be without goalkeeper Bernard Lama against Anderlecht in the UEFA Cup as a result of a nose fracture suffered in last week's league game against Auxerre.

ITALY: David Platt is ruled out for the rest of the year as he is advised to undergo immediate knee surgery.

UNITED STATES: The USSF announces the national team's 1993 schedule, featuring internationals against Denmark, Romania, Russia (twice), Germany (twice), England and Brazil as well as appearances in the CONCACAF and South American championships.

24 NOVEMBER TUESDAY

ACTION: The TV domination being exerted by the Champions' League the following day means three ties in the third round of the UEFA Cup are moved forward to today. Holders Ajax beat Kaiserslautern 2-0, including a goal from 16-year-old Clarence Seedorf; PSG are held 0-0 by Anderlecht and both finish with 10 men after the expulsions of Ginola and Albert; Auxerre hit back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with Standard Liege. Frank Verlaat scores Auxerre's first goal, makes their second and is then sent off.

GERMANY: The DFB announces its candidacy to host the 2006 World Cup finals. A spokesman says it is hoped FIFA will allow small standing room areas in each of the 12 proposed stadia.

ITALY: Representatives of ten European footballers' unions warn they may consider strike action if FIFA relaxes its attitude to restrictions on foreign imports.

25 NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY

ACTION: The Champions' League is dominated by Van Basten, who scores all four superb goals in Milan's 4-0 defeat of IFK Gothenburg. Brugge beat CSKA Moscow 1-0, Porto draw 2-2 with PSV and Rangers hit back from 2-0 down at Ibrox to draw 2-2 with Marseille . . . in the UEFA Cup Benfica draw 2-2 away to Moscow Dynamo, Roma win 3-1 at home to Galatasaray thanks to two goals from Brazilian Aldair, and Juventus win 2-1 away to Sigma Olomouc.

BRAZIL: Fluminense beat Sport Recife 2-1 in a Brazil Cup semi-final, first leg while Vasco da Gama beat Bangu 1-0 to secure the Rio de Janeiro Championship.

ITALY: Napoli call an emergency meeting to discuss action against Sevilla for not beating the deadline for another payment towards the Maradona transfer.

ROMANIA: National manager Cornel Dinu recalls Gica Popescu and Florin Raducioiu after injury for the World Cup qualifier against Cyprus in Larnaca

SPAIN: Celta have their Vigo stadium closed for two matches in a package of punishments inflicted by the federation for the trouble during the weekend's match against Sevilla. This is the second time the ground has been closed this season.

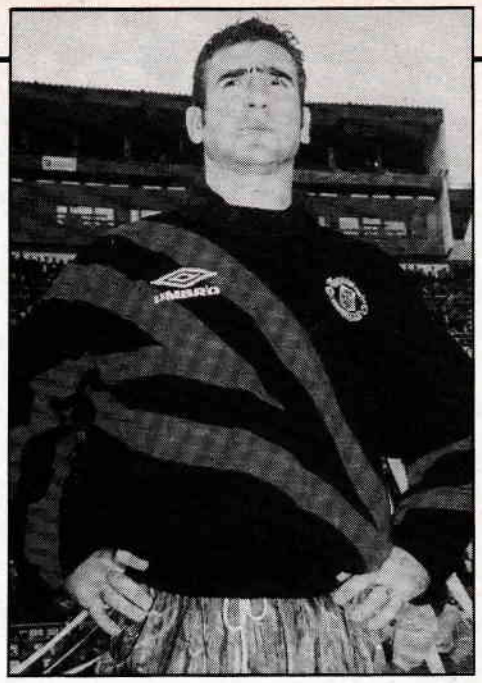
DID YOU KNOW?

. . . a referee was breath-tested in Poland after players in a controversial Third Division match summoned police at the end of the game.

26 NOVEMBER THURSDAY

ACTION: Argentina beat Poland 2-0 in Buenos Aires . . . Real Madrid win 1-0 away to Vitesse Arnhem in the UEFA Cup . . . Racing of Argentina beat Cruzeiro 1-0 in the second leg of the South American Supercup Final but Cruzeiro win 4-1 on aggregate.

AUSTRIA: Chancellor Franz Vranitzky is among mourners at the funeral in Vienna of Ernst Happel.



ENGLAND: Leeds shock their fans by selling France striker Eric Cantona (above) to Man United for £1.2m.

GERMANY: Leading players, including Lothar Matthaus, condemn the flurry of racist attacks. The DFB agrees that players will wear a special slogan, instead of shirt ads, in their games on December 12.

ITALY: Platt undergoes surgery on his damaged right knee . . . Carlos Aguilera's trial in connection with a Latin American prositution ring is postponed until March by a court in Genoa.

27 NOVEMBER FRIDAY

ACTION: Brazil beat Spain 4-1 and the US defeat Iran 4-2 to reach the Final of the World Indoor Cup.

ENGLAND: The FA is likely to have to pay £3million in compensation to the associations of Wales, Ireland and Scotland because of live *Sky Sports* coverage.

ITALY: Milan's Ruud Gullit says club presidents must take a strong stand against racist chants and banners in Italian stadia. He says players should walk off in the middle of a match if a chant is heard. Team-mate Marco Van Basten says he understands how Gullit feels, but quitting a match would be playing into the racists' hands, giving them the publicity they craved.

SPAIN: Diego Maradona joins the row over instalment payments on his transfer from Napoli to Sevilla. He says he will fly home to Argentina "for good" unless the money goes through. Napoli, meanwhile, call for his suspension pending resolution of the row.

28 NOVEMBER SATURDAY

ACTION: Brazil beat the US 4-1 in the World Indoor Cup Final in Hong Kong, thus denying American skipper Jim Gabarra a unique double — since his wife, Carin Jennings, starred in the Americans' Women's World Cup victory last year . . . Honduras beat St Vincent 4-0 in the World Cup CONCACAF qualifiers . . . Cyprus lose 2-0 at home to Romania in the European Under-21 Championship . . . Shooting Stars Sports Club of Nigeria beat Nakivubo Sports Villa of Uganda 3-0 (and by the same margin on aggregate) in the second leg of the Final of the CAF (Abiola) Cup (formerly the African Federation Cup and a sort of African equivalent of the UEFA Cup) . . . Nantes are held 2-2 at home by Strasbourg but stay top since pursuers Paris SG lose 3-1 at Monaco . . . Lothar Matthaus scores a brilliant goal but Bayern Munich are surprisingly held 3-3 at home by Karlsruhe . . . Sevilla lose 3-1 at home to Atletico Madrid in Spain. Mexican Luis Garcia scores twice.

ECUADOR: The draw is made for the 1993 Copa America (see page 61).

29 NOVEMBER SUNDAY

ACTION: The CONCACAF round of World Cup qualifiers continues with Costa Rica surprisingly beating Mexico 2-0 . . . Romania win 4-1 in Cyprus in European World Cup group four . . . Uruguay lose 1-0 at home to Poland . . . Wydad Casablanca beat Hilal of Sudan 2-0 in the first leg of the African Champions' Cup Final . . . Anderlecht force a 1-1 draw away to second-placed Standard Liege in Belgium's Match of the Season . . . Palmeiras reach the final of the Sao Paulo Championship despite losing 2-1 to Corinthians . . . AEK beat PAOK 3-1 to increase their lead in Greece. Dimitriadis scores all three . . . Ajax win 3-0 at Groningen to move up to second in Holland as Feyenoord go down 4-3 at home to the season's surprise team, MVV Maastricht . . . Milan beat Juventus 1-0 after Gianluca Vialli misses a late penalty . . . Barcelona maintain their high-scoring run in Spain, thrashing neighbours Espanol 5-0. They are one point clear of Real Madrid.

30 NOVEMBER MONDAY

BULGARIA: Barcelona striker Hristo Stoichkov is dropped from Bulgaria's World Cup line-up against Israel in midweek because he disobeyed orders and quit Bulgaria's training camp by flying back to Spain at the weekend to play for his club.

FRANCE: Rudi Voller will miss Marseille's Champions' League tie against Brugge after dislocating his shoulder in the 2-1 home win over Caen at the weekend . . . Lens sack coach Arnaud Dos Santos and promote youth boss Patrice Bergues in his place . . . Paris SG star George Weah is ruled out for the rest of the year after suffering a knee injury at the weekend against his old club, Monaco.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA proposes veteran French federation chief Jacques Georges to fill the FIFA vice-presidency gap created by the death of Germany's Hermann Neuberger; UEFA agrees to 16 nations in the finals of the 1996 European Championship in England.

WHAT'S ON

JANUARY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
World Cup qualifier, Europe Group 4: Cyprus v Belgium.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16
World Cup qualifiers, Africa Group D: South Africa v Nigeria. **Group H:** Tanzania v Zambia.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17
World Cup qualifiers, Africa Group A: Burundi v Algeria. **Group B:** Liberia v Zaire, Swaziland v Cameroon. **Group C:** Angola v Egypt, Togo v Zimbabwe. **Group E:** Botswana v Ivory Coast. **Group F:** Benin v Tunisia, Ethiopia v Morocco. **Group G:** Mozambique v Gabon. **Group H:** Namibia v Madagascar. **Group I:** Mali v Guinea.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24
World Cup qualifier, Europe Group 1: Malta v Portugal.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30
World Cup qualifiers, Africa Group G: Senegal v Mozambique. **Group H:** Zambia v Namibia. **Group I:** Kenya v Mali.
International: United States v Denmark (Phoenix).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31
World Cup qualifiers, Africa Group A: Ghana v Burundi. **Group B:** Cameroon v Liberia, Zaire v Swaziland. **Group C:** Egypt v Togo, Zimbabwe v Angola. **Group D:** Congo v South Africa. **Group E:** Ivory Coast v Niger. **Group F:** Morocco v Benin, Tunisia v Ethiopia. **Group H:** Madagascar v Tanzania.

 JONATHAN SHALLARD reports on the FIFA World Indoor Championship in Hong Kong

BRAZILIANS TOP FUN TABLE

Brazilian captain Vander with the trophy after the final (below) victory over the US.

FIFA's second indoor World Championship played in Hong Kong, was fun while it lasted — two weeks of crash, bang, wallop, but a vast improvement over the yawningly cautious first tournament in Holland in 1989.

The application of the new backpass rule was even more effective in the hall than outdoors, while the introduction of effective playing time — stopping the clock whenever the ball was out of play — made time-wasting virtually impossible, even if it did make the games almost twice as long as the action itself.

Maybe FIFA should think again about the Championship format, transforming the second round into a knock-out instead of round robins, to make it all a little shorter.

But with an average of 7.7 goals per match, there was no lack of entertainment.

Brazil deservedly retained their world five-a-side title, treating the crowd to consistently good football and earning the People's Favourite award put up by the main sponsor, Snickers.

Sometimes it was samba football at its best, especially from Vander, Manoel, Ortiz and the controversial Golden Ball winner, Jorginho. The only time the sparkle was not so bright was in the Final, when the ends dictated the means.

Brazil, the astonishing Iran, the United States (now becoming regulars in the finals of FIFA competions), and Spain were the best teams and reached the semi-finals accordingly. Their styles were different, proving tactics can exist

Shirazi's 17 goal

THE first round consisted of four groups of four nations, all playing three times.

Hong Kong benefitted from the experience of coach Vic Hermans, Golden Ball winner as Dutch captain in 1989, who had an outstanding player in Leslie Santos ("like a bird flying over the pitch," said Hermans).

But lack of international exposure and commitment showed as they lost to Poland in the Group A opener, missing enough chances to win two games.

Argentina dismissed the naive Nigerians 6-2 with five goals by Gabriel Valarin, and then beat Hong Kong, whose only consolation was to put four past the Nigerians before being eliminated.

Group B contained ambitious professionals from Italy and Holland, who both failed to impress as Iran, with only two indoor matches behind them, took the place by storm.

Abtahi immediately became the tournament's outstanding all-rounder, while his and Shirazi's goals stunned one opponent after another. Astonishingly they beat Italy 7-5, and hit Paraguay for ten.

Holland plodded through despite losing to Paraguay and thanks to a last-minute goal against Italy.

Group C was notable for Brazil's 15-1 destruction of the inept Costa Rica, who nevertheless managed to put six past Australia.

Belgium, quietly efficient, were a good second, but Brazil were a cut above everybody. Spain, among the

QUOTES

United States coach John Kowalski: "We were surprised by the Brazilian decision to defend and kick their way out of trouble. They seemed to have an invisible shield in front of their goal, nothing would go in. But I'm proud of what we have achieved. We've proved again that US soccer can play with, and often beat, the best."

US coaching adviser Ron Newman: "Brazil were the class act of the event. We were the only team who stood a chance against them. But today it was like pulling teeth out there.

Brazilian coach Eustaquio Araujo (a dentist who studied in Kowalski's home town, Pittsburgh): "We had to change our tactics to beat the US. We had to let them come to us, and be ready for it. But I believe we won as the best team."

WINNERS . . . LOSERS

FIRST ROUND

Group A: Hong Kong 2 Poland 4; Argentina 6 Nigeria 2; Hong Kong 1 Argentina 2; Poland 5 Nigeria 4; Hong Kong 4 Nigeria 1; Poland 2 Argentina 3.

Group B: Holland 2 Iran 1; Paraguay 5 Italy 7; Holland 1 Paraguay 3; Iran 7 Italy 5; Holland 4 Italy 3; Iran 10 Paraguay 6.

Group C: Brazil 3 Australia 0; Costa Rica 2 Belgium 6; Brazil 15 Costa Rica 1; Australia 1 Belgium 2; Australia 8 Costa Rica 6; Brazil 5 Belgium 0.

Group D: China 5 Spain 6; Russia 3 US 8; China 1 Russia 10; Spain 5 US 3; Spain 7 Russia 7; China 1 US 7.

SECOND ROUND

Group E: Brazil 2 US 2; Argentina 1 Holland 4; Argentina 1 Brazil 5; Holland 3 US 3; Argentina 3 US 6; Holland 1 Brazil 6.

Group F: Iran 2 Poland 0; Spain 5 Belgium 3; Iran 4 Spain 2; Poland 1 Belgium 4; Iran 4 Belgium 2; Poland 3 Spain 7.

SEMI-FINALS

Brazil 4 Spain 1
Iran 2 US 4.

THIRD PLACE

Spain 9 Iran 6.

FINAL

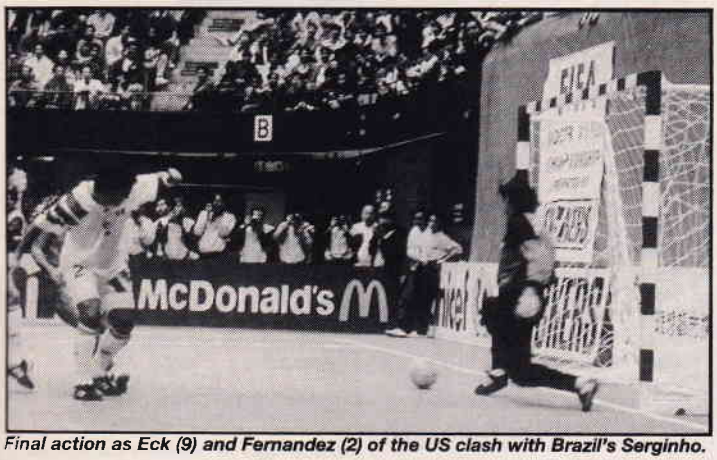
Brazil 4 US 1.

In the hurly-burly of 40 metres x 20. Most teams had a good goalkeeper, a defence quick to cover, and fleet-footed individuals with deadly reactions on the counter-attack.

The tournament had to prove its worth in the cosmopolitan setting of Hong Kong, and succeeded, to the point of a 10,000 capacity crowd for the Final. Now Spain want the next one in 1996, with Brazil also interested.

If the next edition is as good as this one, even if the memories may not linger as sharply as for the classic 11-a-side, then it will be worth looking forward to, and well worth staging.

earn the Boot



Final action as Eck (9) and Fernandez (2) of the US clash with Brazil's Serginho.

pre-event favourites, only got through in Group D after a tumultuous 6-5 win over the Chinese, an impressive 5-3 win against the US and a draw with the Russians, 7-7. That meant Russia's exit despite a 10-1 blitz of China (including seven in one half by Constantin Eremenko), while the US trounced China 7-1 to secure their passage.

Brazil dropped their only point of the tournament in their first game of the second round against the US.

They soon found their feet again, trimming Argentina 5-1 and then turning on the style for the visiting Pele and crushing Holland 6-1. The Americans recovered against Argentina to win 6-3 and secure a place in the last four.

Iran, meanwhile, went from strength to strength, Shirazi collecting ever more goals. Poland and Belgium were dismissed, and then Shirazi scored all four against Spain to transform a 2-0 deficit into a 4-2 win.

Spain got over that shock to beat the Poles 7-3 to make the semi-finals, while Belgium finally lacked the flair to make further headway.

Brazil cruised through against the Spanish in one semi-final, Vander claiming three goals in a 4-1 win, and Dale Ervine also hit a hat trick as the US put an end to the Iranian run.

Iran led 2-1 after the break but the US turned it around and won 4-2, although Ervine collected an unnecessary yellow card in the last minute which put him out of the Final.

As third place matches go, Spain v Iran was a cracker. The Spaniards overhauled Iran's 3-1 lead and went on to win 9-6. Shirazi's two goals took his tally to 17 and won him the Golden Boot as top scorer.

After that, the Final was a little disappointing. The US, deprived of Ervine and Woodberry (eye injury), tried the same hassling tactics that had worked against Iran. Brazil let it happen, uncharacteristically ready to hoof the ball into touch if appropriate.

They soaked up the pressure and thrust back decisively to win 4-1.

SQUADS

ARGENTINA
Coach: Vicente de Luise
1 ..... CARFAGNA Alberto 26.11.57
2 ..... FIELE Walter 02.07.71
3 ..... SPOSARO Walter 27.12.63
4 ..... ROMERO Gustavo 04.08.68
5 ..... SOSA Ruben 26.02.62
6 ..... GIMENEZ Fabio 07.01.67
7 ..... PARRILLA Pablo 24.07.73
8 ..... AVALOS Juan 17.10.62
9 ..... FERRARIS Mauricio 20.10.64
10 ... DIAZ Marcelo 25.06.61
11 ... VALARIN Gabriel 17.08.65
12 ... SOCORRO Eduardo 06.08.64

AUSTRALIA
Coach: James Roberts
1 ..... MUSUMECI Anthony 23.08.56
2 ..... STUART Robert 30.10.58
3 ..... NASTOSKI Vance 12.03.65
4 ..... ATANASOVSKI Borce 01.06.61
5 ..... DUVAL Stephen 14.10.69
6 ..... OSMAN Erkin 02.09.63
7 ..... DUVAL Brett 01.10.68
8 ..... WHITE John 19.06.68
9 ..... JEFFERY Glenn 19.03.64
10 ... FILIPOVIC Radovan 28.02.60
11 ... RICHARDSON Paul 01.01.73
12 ... THURLOW Bruce 08.01.62

BELGIUM
Coach: Damian Knabben
1 ..... PANS Gert 11.08.68
2 ..... EL GUIR Youssef 11.07.70
3 ..... PAPANICOLAOU Nico 06.06.60
4 ..... HERNALSTEEN Raf 24.07.67
5 ..... BLOEMEN Theo 22.10.65
6 ..... MAES Marc 24.08.65
7 ..... HECHTERMANS Ivan 28.12.67
8 ..... MAES Willy 03.02.61
9 ..... SWERON Jos 08.03.66
10 ... PENDERS Marc 16.08.66
11 ... BEYERS Herman 20.02.63
12 ... MARCHE Philippe 22.06.62

BRAZIL
Coach: Eustaquio Afonso Araujo
1 ..... BAPTISTA Serginho 09.05.64
2 ..... SCHIOCHET Serginho 27.10.60
3 ..... CRUZ JUNIOR Manoel Tobias . 19.04.71
4 ..... SILVA FILHO Edinho 11.04.66
5 ..... NOVAES Chiquinho 23.11.65
6 ..... LIRA GOES Fininho 06.07.72
7 ..... MORILLO Ricardo 29.09.66
8 ..... MOTTA Rogerio 30.05.68
9 ..... PIMENTEL Jorginho 10.10.68
10 ... LIMA MACIEL Mazureik 23.02.63
11 ... ROESE ORTIZ Luis Fernando ... 08.05.64
12 ... IACOVINO Vander 25.09.65

COSTA RICA
Coach: Jose Alberto Cubero Carmona
1 ..... ALPIZAR Francisco 12.01.59
2 ..... JARA Geovanny 20.07.69
3 ..... CASTRO Victor 01.08.59
4 ..... BARRIENTOS Sergio 09.06.67
5 ..... ALPIZAR Gilbert 12.02.68
6 ..... KNOWLEN Daniel 25.01.63
7 ..... CARVAJAL Jose 31.03.68
8 ..... PORRAS Miguel Angel 14.01.66
9 ..... GUTIERREZ Ricardo 22.11.61
10 ... SOLIS Diego 15.05.62
11 ... VALVERDE Rolando 23.12.69
12 ... CASTILLO Ronald 19.08.65

CHINA
Coach: Qi Wusheng
1 ..... HAN Wenhai 28.01.71
2 ..... ZHAO Shigang 19.08.62
3 ..... ZHAO Lin 15.02.66
4 ..... XU Hong 18.04.68
5 ..... MA Xiaohong 22.11.70
6 ..... WANG Jun 15.02.63
7 ..... ZHU Xiaodong 13.03.69
8.
9 ..... WEI Yimin 12.07.71
10 ... LI Ming 26.01.71
11 ... SUN Minghui 20.04.71
12.

HONG KONG
Coach: Vic Hermans
1 ..... CHUNG Ho Yin 15.04.71
2 ..... CHAN Ping On 09.08.59
3 ..... CHU Yu Tai 23.09.66
4 ..... CHAN Chi Kwong 19.10.64
5 ..... AU Wai Lun 14.08.71
6 ..... CHEUNG Chi Tak 15.09.58
7 ..... CHIU Chun Ming 08.07.64
8 ..... TAM Siu Wai 17.09.70
9 ..... WONG Fuk Wing 20.01.60
10 ... SANTOS Leslie 20.07.67
11 ... TAM AH Fook 02.08.62
12 ... CHAU Cheong Wa 17.02.68

IRAN
Coach: Mohammed Mayelikohan
1 ..... GHOLAMPOUR Behzad 05.08.66
2 ..... VARMAZYAR Sadegh 16.05.66
3 ..... AKBARI GHARETAPPEH Ashgar ... 12.04.68
4 ..... SADJADI Mahmoud 05.07.61
5 ..... GAROSI Mohsen 1968
6 ..... YOUSEFI Ali Akbar 09.12.69
7 ..... ABTAHI Seyed Mehdi 02.03.63
8 ..... SALEH Majid 16.07.66
9 ..... NOAMOOZ Arash 1967
10 ... MODIR ROSTA Ashgar 25.07.68
11 ... RAJABI SHIRAZI Saeid 10.03.65
12 ... AGHABABAZADEH Hamdullah 1964

ITALY
Coach: Vasco Tagliavini
1 ..... FARDELLA Francesco 27.05.63
2 ..... BONCORI Giancarlo 22.07.63
3 ..... MINICUCCI Paolo 22.05.66
4 ..... FAMA Andrea 20.10.64
5 ..... MILELLA Giuseppe 06.07.65
6 ..... MENICHELLI Roberto 14.01.63
7 ..... QUATTRINI Massimo 26.09.68
8 ..... MATRANGA Roberto 15.06.69
9 ..... CAPPELLATO Gianluca 23.04.64
10 ... MAURIZI Agenora 20.07.64
11 ... RUBEI Andrea 20.12.66
12 ... RINALDI Massimo 18.10.67

HOLLAND
Coach: Ron Groenewoud
1 ..... WENTZEL Michel 28.06.66
2 ..... LEATEMIA Hendrik 13.07.66
3 ..... MERK Eric 09.03.64
4 ..... DUIJZINGS Patrick 17.10.61
5 ..... TRAETS Antonius 30.03.63
6 ..... HOEKEMA Hjalmar 16.11.65
7 ..... BAKKER Andre 06.02.61
8 ..... LETTINCK Hendrikus 05.01.67
9 ..... RUNDERKAMP Nicolaas 30.03.64
10 ... RIJSDIJK Ruud 26.11.66
11 ... ROEST Anouk 10.07.69
12 ... KOK Lambert 07.04.60

NIGERIA
Coach: Disu Olatunde
1 ..... OLONISAKIN Gbenga Moses ... 03.01.70
2 ..... ABDULAHAI Bawa 20.04.72
3 ..... IDOWU Abiodun 24.12.69
4 ..... IKHIDERO Tunde Charity 18.11.70
5 ..... ONYEMECHARA Michael 13.01.70
6 ..... OZURUMBA Innocent 30.08.70
7 ..... USMAN Ahmed 28.04.62
8 ..... ABAROWEI Stephen 30.11.71
9 ..... JOHNSON Ademola 25.12.71
10 ... OBI Chinedu Mike 21.10.68
11 ... OBI Christian 02.01.67
12 ... OKPARA Williams 07.05.68

PARAGUAY
Coach: Joel Elias Villalba Jovellanos
1 ..... SILVA Guillermo 10.02.69
2 ..... FRANCO Pedro 01.07.64
3 ..... PERALTA Carlos 14.1062
4 ..... OCAMPOS Felipe 11.04.63
5 ..... MONTIEL Juan 02.02.65
6 ..... GIMENEZ Jorge 21.08.70
7 ..... CORONEL Juan 10.01.67
8 ..... LOPEZ Victor 21.07.65
9 ..... CAROSSINI Ramon 31.08.60
10 ... BODADILLA Tomas 07.03.61
11 ... SAUCEDO Jhons Williams 18.11.68
12 ... VILLAMAYOR Luis 21.06.64

POLAND
Coach: Andrej Goral
1 ..... KUCHARSKI Kazimierz 04.03.68
2 ..... RYPEL Miroslaw 24.11.67
3 ..... KALUZA Dariusz 31.12.68
4 ..... MIKOLAJEWSKI Krzysztof 08.10.66
5 ..... ANTOS Andrzek 26.11.63
6 ..... LIPKA Wieslaw 06.0565
7 ..... ZYMANCZYK Jozef 24.07.65
8 ..... PAWELA Zbigniew 17.02.66
9 ..... ZYGMUNT Leszek 14.12.63
10 ... PRZYCHODZIEN Sylwester 31.12.63
11 ... LADYNSKI Jacek 01.09.69
12 ... PODGORSKI Jacek 23.07.66

RUSSIA
Coach: Semen Andreev
1 ..... KALACHNIKOV Oleg 08.03.64
2 ..... EREMENKO Konstantine 05.08.70
3 ..... TCHOUKHLOV Boris 26.10.60
4 ..... STEPANOV Alexei 20.01.60
5 ..... MASLAKOV Iouri 05.04.57
6 ..... EPRINTSEV Oleg 19.03.62
7 ..... SOLODOVNIK Oleg 11.12.66
8 ..... SEMENOV Igor 31.10.60
9 ..... ZAKEROV Nail 28.10.59
10 ... MIRGALIMOV Fail 29.03.57
11 ... KOCHTCHOUG Sergei 18.10.67
12 ... DENISSOV Oleg 09.02.67

SPAIN
Coach: Javier Lozano
1 ..... CLAVERIA Jesus 04.01.68
2 ..... LEDESMA Francisco 18.12.66
3 ..... LUCAS Pato 06.03.67
4 ..... DE LA TORRE Alberto 29.05.65
5 ..... MARTINEZ Vicentin 25.06.69
6 ..... LADAGA Chavi 05.0168
7 ..... MUNOZ Alvaro 07.02.66
8 ..... MELERO Julian 17.01.65
9 ..... MORENO Paco 14.12.65
10 ... SANCHEZ Carlos 16.11.69
11 ... LORENTE Javier 21.04.70
12 ... ARMORA Miguel 07.09.67

UNITED STATES
Coach: John Kowalski
1 ..... NOGUEIRA Victor 17.07.59
2 ..... FERNANDEZ George 29.10.61
3 ..... SCHMETZER Andy 26.04.67
4 ..... AGOOS Jeff 02.05.68
5 ..... WINDISCHMANN Mike 06.12.65
6 ..... BORJA Hernan 24.08.59
7 ..... GABARRA Jim 22.09.59
8 ..... CLAVIJO Fernando 23.01.56
9 ..... ECK Ted 14.07.66
10 ... WOODBERRY Terry 09.09.63
11 ... ERVINE Dale 19.05.64
12 ... JOHNS Philip 07.07.58

Hong Kong

EASTERN PROMISE, BUT CHAMPIONS SLIP

CHAMPIONS South China made a surprisingly poor start to the new Hong Kong season.

They lost 5-0 to Eastern on the opening day, and after four games had only four points.

A sponsorship deal with Coca-Cola had enabled South China to strengthen their squad through several importations, including former West Ham goalkeeper Allen McKnight (right) and ex-Arsenal and Exeter midfielder Brian McDermott.

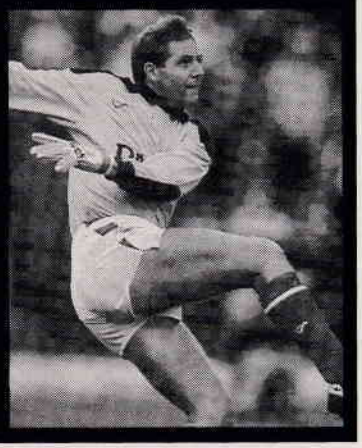
Eastern, second last year, won their first four matches. They have much-travelled Iain Hesford in goal and a good striker in Ross Greer, who was released by South China and scored against them on his Eastern debut.

Instant-Dict began with three successive victories, Marko Perinovic scoring a hat-trick in the 7-0 defeat of British Forces, who were surprisingly promoted last season.

Ernest Borel, who won two of the three cup competitions last time, lost their first match, 2-1, to Kui Tan.

Coach Lee Ping-hung promptly resigned!

Other players with Football League experience in Hong Kong include Ralph Milne (Man Utd) and Warren Bufton (Coventry) at Sing Tao, Dale Tempest (Fulham and Huddersfield) with Eastern, and Tony Sealy (QPR) at Michelotti.



China

LIAONING STILL ON TOP

LIAONING retained the title by taking 19 points from their 14 games, with Guangzhou second one point behind.

Guangzhou were unbeaten at home, but scored only 19 goals overall and paid the penalty for that lack of striking power.

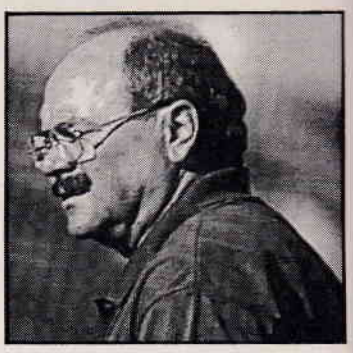
Shenyang, in the First Division for the first time, go back down after taking only three points.

The other relegated club, Guangong, missed out on goal difference behind Beijing.

Standards were rather higher during the season, probably because members of the national squad — third in the Asian Nations' Cup — were allowed to play for their clubs.

Usually they are kept together in order to concentrate on their international commitments.

German coach Klaus Schlappner



(above), who took over the national squad seven months ago, said that players needed competition of all sorts, and the Football Association eventually accepted his suggestion that internationals should be released for club games.

CHINA – Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liaoning	14	8	3	3	25	14	19
Guangzhou	14	8	2	4	19	5	18
Dalian	14	7	3	4	25	15	17
August First	14	6	3	5	22	17	15
Shanghai	14	6	2	6	18	15	14
Beijing	14	5	3	6	21	20	13
Guangdong	14	4	5	5	18	24	13
Shenyang	14	1	1	12	8	34	3

ZHENG **MING**

India

EAST BENGAL have been suspended from the Super Division for a year after illegally fielding a player during the recent season.

A controversial new rule introduced by the Indian FA forced all 10 clubs in the division to field two players under 19 years of age in every match.

East Bengal, who had been champions last year without conceding a goal in their 18 games, finished third this time, but had used an over-age player, Tapan Das, in three matches.

In addition to the ban, the club had five points deducted, although this did not affect the final placings.

East Bengal had some consolation by winning the 38th Bordoloi Cup competition, beating Border Security Force of Jalandhar 3-0.

Nigerian striker Chima Okeri helped Mohun Bagan to a record and took one for himself. Mohun finished nine points clear of Mohammedan SC to win the championship for the 22nd time, passing East Bengal's total of 21.

Okeri's 15 goals, out of 38 in 18 games, made him the top individual scorer in the league for the fifth time in six seasons, with East Bengal in 1987, '89 and '90, and with Mohun Bagan in '91 and '92.

G.C.**DAS**

Australia

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand won through to the second phase of the Oceania World Cup qualifying series — and an always inevitable clash with each other. But both had a shock or two on the way.

The Kiwis dropped a point in Fiji, and had to thank goalkeeper Clint Gosling for avoiding defeat. Yet so superior was their goal difference that elimination never looked a remote possibility.

The Socceroos also suffered embarrassment at the hands of a Pacific islands side. Only a goal by Tom McCulloch four minutes from the end in Honoria stopped Solomon Islands, playing in their maiden World Cup campaign, from stealing an unlikely draw.

During the return, in Newcastle, the Solomon Islanders were level for 58 minutes before an avalanche of goals produced a 6-1 scoreline.

Malaysia

PAHANG'S victory in the title race was somewhat overshadowed by the decline of Singapore and Selangor, who were relegated.

But they may avoid the drop after all, because the Malaysian FA are considering a proposal aimed at restoring the old one-division arrangement for next season.

The FAM introduced a two-tier semi-professional league in 1989, but many people feel that it has not been a success.

Selangor, champions 27 times since the League's inception in 1921, and Singapore, winners 21 times, will welcome a reprieve.

Relegation, for the first time, would be a dreadful way for Singapore to "celebrate" their centenary year. Ironically the game that extinguished their last hope was a 1-0 defeat by Pahang.

Indonesia

PELITA JAYA won the 1992 Utama Cup, a competition between the best amateur and semi-professional sides in Indonesia.

In most countries this would be no contest, but in Indonesia the professionals have never established superiority. Players often switch between semi-professional and amateur clubs, and it is not unusual for amateurs to be included in the international squad.

Certainly the amateur championships, staged every two years, is by far the most prestigious competition in the country.

Pelita Jaya, a professional outfit, beat Persib 2-0 in the final. Powan Ngadi scored both goals in a scrappy game that was not helped by a heavy rainstorm.

Oman

ZOFAR and Al Ourouba dominated the season in Oman, and shared the two major honours.

In the League, Zofar finished three points clear and had the leading scorer — Hilal Hamid, with 14 goals. Al Ourouba's Omar Al Alamein scored 13, and he also hit the only goal in the Gold Cup Final.

Al Ourouba also had beaten Zofar 1-0 in both League encounters.

Fiji

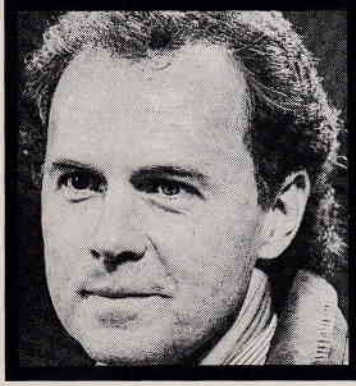
THE Inter-Districts Championship, Fiji's premier domestic competition, has been won by a team from beyond the main island of Viti Levu for the first time.

Labasa, based in northern Vanua Levu, celebrated the 50th anniversary of their foundation as a district association by defeating Nadroga 2-0 in the final at Nausori.

Peters opened the scoring with a penalty after 37 minutes, and fellow-international Bula Cama clinched victory three minutes from time.

Japan

FRANZ HELPS THE DIAMONDS



JAPAN'S car makers are having a bad time. Nissan have made their first pre-tax losses, and Mitsubishi, Mazda, Honda and Toyota all report lower profits. But in times of adversity, these bastions of Japanese industry are turning to soccer.

Mitsubishi have appointed former Germany captain and coach Franz Beckenbauer as worldwide spokesman for sales promotion. The contract lasts four years, and the main target is the European market. Beckenbauer (left) also will advise Mitsubishi's League team, Urawa Red Diamonds.

Gary Lineker has been back in Japan to make Toyota commercials, and Nissan and Mazda are heavily committed to the J League, as the sponsors of Yokohama Marinos and Sanfrecce Hiroshima respectively.

The exception is Honda. The once-mighty Honda team suffered an exodus of players after declining to enter the J League and have now been relegated to the lower league.

Yokohama Marinos cruised to victory in their Asian Cup-winners' Cup quarter-final against Pupuk Kaltim.

Pupuk's new 20,000 capacity stadium was packed to overflowing for the first leg in tropical Bontang. The Indonesians have been reinforced by the arrival of national team midfielder Fachri Husaini, but despite fast, precise ball-play they never looked like coping with Marinos in the air and had to be content with a 1-1 draw.

The second leg on a cold Tokyo night was very one-sided. While the Indonesians stalled and shivered, Marinos went one up in the first minute and had little difficulty in winning 3-1.

MIKE **PLASTOW** and MICHI **ISHIJIMA**

Brazil's best

But the routine is driving Santana's star away

COMPLIMENTS from Tele Santana (right) are as common as friendly immigration officers. He is rarely satisfied and routinely criticises his team even when they have won a match.

So when he does make a compliment, it is worth listening to.

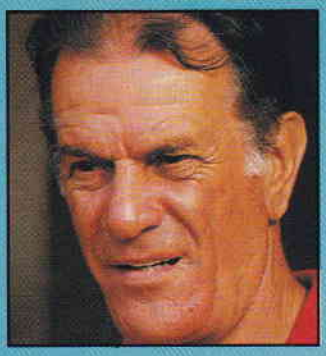
The last compliment of which *WORLD SOCCER* has note was bestowed on Rai, captain of Santana's all-conquering Sao Paulo team: "The best player in Brazil at the moment — intelligent, skilful, a fighter and a leader."

Rai de Souza Oliveira would be the man to lead Brazil's 1994 World Cup challenge and follow in the footsteps of his older brother, Socrates. His touch and vision are reminiscent of the "doctor".

His career had taken off in the past year, during which he has lifted three trophies — the Sao Paulo Championship, the Brazilian Championship and the Libertadores Cup — and been made captain of Brazil.

Yet Rai's talents are still largely unknown outside Brazil. He has played 17 times for his country but only has been outside South America in 1987, when he made his debut against England at Wembley.

He did not display his true colours, having flown in from Brazil the day before the game. But it can only a matter of time before he becomes more widely known. Basically,



he displays the same gifted, unhurried style as his brother, fulfils the same creative midfield role, and has the same ability to pop up in the penalty area and score goals.

"There is a similarity," he says. "We play in the same style. He liked to create moves and come through to finish them off."

But there are differences. Rai does not drink or smoke and, in the striking contrast to his older brother, never misses training sessions. He is usually one of the first to arrive and one of the last to leave.

He lacks some of the Socrates magic, but can also be seen, as Santana pointed out, fighting for possession.

Rai prefers to avoid comparisons, because they nearly brought his career to a premature end.

"I thought about abandoning the game because I couldn't stand the pressure and the demands from the press and the supporters who wanted me to play like my brother," he said.

"The press were very demanding. They said I only played because of Socrates. I was young and took it seriously.

"It was a weight which I slowly overcame. Today, I have an independent image, and there is just a bit of curiosity."

Like Socrates, Rai began his career with the Botafogo club (the other Botafogo) in Riberao Preto, Sao Paulo state. To begin with, he displayed the same laid-back attitude as his brother.

"I played for fun and never thought about becoming a professional," he said.

"I played at school and at an amateur club, then I wanted to play in championships so I joined Botafogo's youth team and it was a natural sequence . . . even though at Botafogo I never took it seriously and trained only once or twice a week, when I felt like it."

Rai recognises that his upbringing was comfortable in comparison with most Brazilians.

"I come from an upper middle-class family in a city that has one of the highest incomes per head in the country. I had a good educational background, private school, a good family background, which is something I value, especially

Muller (left) and Rai celebrate Sao Paulo's 1991 Rio State Championship success.

Socrates takes on Scotland's Wark at the 1982 World Cup.

nowadays, and this gave me security.

"For this reason I consider myself provileged, a person who is an exception in Brazil."

His outlook on football changed when he married and realised he had to find a way of making a living quickly. Football was the answer.

"I could still be playing football for fun, which is something I always liked and something I miss," he says. "Getting married helped. It pushed me into becoming more professional, and made me more responsible."

To begin with, he had little contact with Socrates. "When I was 11, he was playing for Corinthians. Afterwards he went abroad. He was a long way away but I always thought he was very intelligent. But now we have more contact. Every time I have a day off I go to Ribeirao and we talk about football."

Rai left Botafogo in 1987 to join Sao Paulo, but after 10 caps his international career suffered a setback in the Copa America, when Brazil went out in the first round after a disastrous 4-0 defeat by Chile.

After a predictable reaction at home, the Brazilians cleared out their team and Rai was among those who got the chop, and took four years to get back.

Paulo Roberto Falcao picked him for the 1991 Copa America, but again, it was not a happy tournament for him. He missed an open goal against Bolivia and was dropped after being on the losing side against Colombia.

Enter Carlos Alberto Parreira as Brazil manager, and Rai's international career resumed.

Parreira determined to put the skill and attacking grace back into the national side and saw Rai as the ideal man to lead the mission. Rai was made captain for Parreira's first game, a friendly against Yugoslavia, and responded with a 25-yard half-volley.

"It has been a good start," said Rai of Parreira's reign.

"We're on the right road. He is right to value what Brazil does best, which is skill and the attacking game, and he has put this into practice."

Unfortunately for Parreira, Rai intends to join the long list of Brazilian exiles abroad. The chance of giving his family financial security combine with the difficult situation in Brazil to make him a likely candidate for a move. Already he has turned down a £12,000-a-month offer from Spanish club Albacete.

"It's a professional challenge for me — all the best players play in Europe", he says.

'It's a professional challenge for me — all the best players play in Europe,' he says.

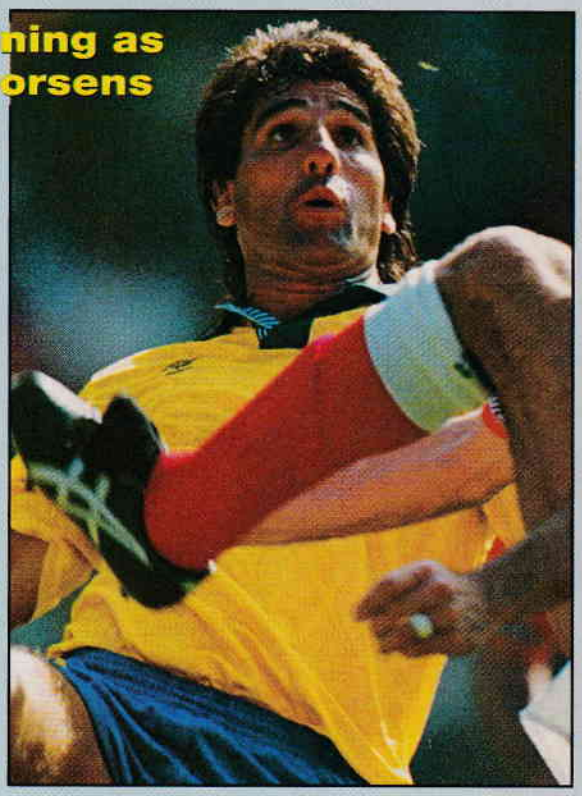
IT'LL BE ALL WHITE . . .

One of the daftest examples of the chaos in Brazil was before the start of the game between Vasco Da Gama and Olaria. Both teams went on to the pitch wearing all-white strips . . . and the kick-off was delayed for HALF AN HOUR while officials argued over which team should change.

BY BRIAN **HOMEWOOD**

Renato bounces back

He's still shining as the chaos worsens



HE'S BACK. Less than six months after being hounded out of Botafogo by furious supporters, Renato Gaucho, Brazil's ever-controversial winger, is the hero of Cruzeiro after helping them to win the South American Supercup.

Back in July, Renato organised a barbecue at his house. The guests included some of the Flamengo players who had beaten Botafogo 3-0 the day before, in the first leg of the Brazilian championship final.

Renato, as active as a hibernating hedgehog during the game, had barely touched the ball and was the main target of the Botafogo fans' wrath.

After a performance like that, hobnobbing with "the enemy" was nothing less than an act of high treason in the eyes of the Botafogo faithful. So when Renato turned up for training the next day, he was greeted with "Traitor" and "Get out Renato" sprayed on the walls of the ground.

The then manager, Gil, did not even have a say in the matter. Club president Emil Pinheiro intervened directly, announcing that Renato was dropped from the second leg and would never play for Botafogo again. Three weeks later Cruzeiro of Belo Horizonte came in with an offer to sign the player on loan, and Renato was off.

He settled down quickly and was soon back on form, but reserved his best performances for the South American Supercup.

Renato in action for Brazil (top) and Botafogo (above).

He scored five goals, one while on the ground, as Cruzeiro destroyed Nacional of Colombia 8-0 in a first-round match, and was instrumental as they thrashed Racing Club 4-0 in the first leg of the final in Belo Horizonte.

In the second leg, he showed both sides of his character, tormenting the Argentine defence while constantly arguing with the referee and the Racing Club players.

Cruzeiro fans ignore his failings and treat him like a hero. "When I go out in Belo Horizonte I can't move," he says.

"Everyone wants autographs. Although I can't go to the beach, I like it there. I would only leave to rejoin Flamengo. Otherwise there's no reason to go."

Cruzeiro were more than worthy winners of the Supercup, for the second year running, after the hacking they suffered against River Plate in the quarter-final and then Racing.

The real "final" was the semi, against Olimpia of Paraguay. Cruzeiro scraped through 3-2 on aggregate against a team who at least played some neat football and took Sao Paulo's scalp in the previous round.

Back in Rio, Vasco da Gama won the state championship — possibly one of history's easiest victories in what was possibly one of history's worst competitions.

Vasco won the first stage unbeaten and took the second stage with two rounds to spare.

Cruzeiro fans treat Renato like a hero

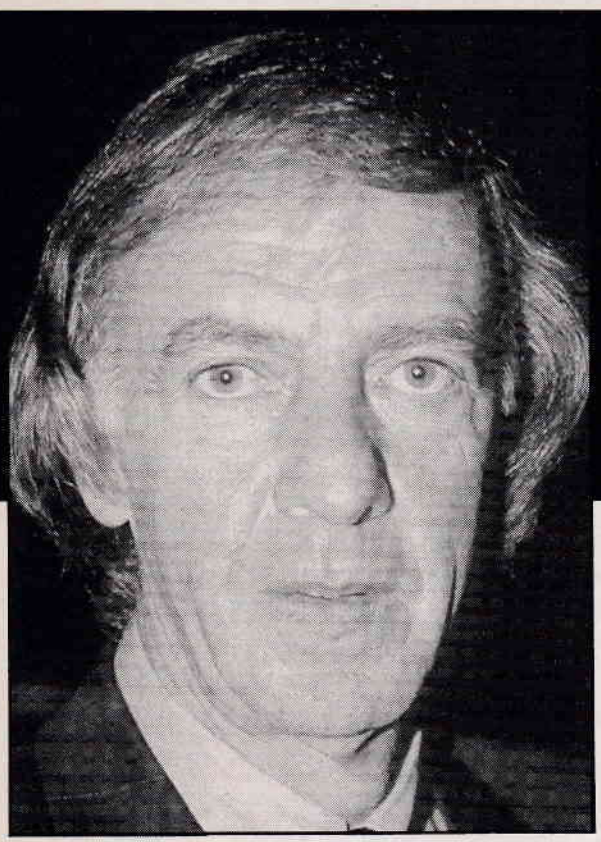
So the traditional final, in which the winners of the first meet the winners of the second did not take place.

Vasco were helped by the resurgence of Roberto, at 38, and the incompetence of their main rivals, Flamengo, Fluminense and Botafogo.

In the second stage Flamengo lost to Madureira, Botafogo were outclassed by Olaria and Fluminese lost to America/Tres Rios.

So Vasco had only to despatch the small teams, which they duly did, beat Botafogo, watch the others continually slip up, and they were champions before they had even played either Flamengo or Fluminense.

Menotti stays as Falcao goes



CRISIS piled on top of crisis in recent weeks of the Central American season.

Mexican FA president Francisco Ibarra resigned. National coach Cesar Menotti (left) did too, but was persuaded to stay. Falcao quit as coach to America of Cali, and Costa Rica's coach, Hector Nunez, was sacked.

Ibarra had a running battle with *TELEVA*, the Mexican TV giant, and lost. Menotti had been signed by Ibarra and *TELEVA* had criticised every move Menotti made, although the team were top of the second-round group in the CONCACAF zone of the World Cup qualifying tournament.

While the FA's books were being checked for possible financial irregularities, Gerado Gil took over as president. He offered Menotti his backing and asked him to withdraw his resignation. He did, and said that his wife did not want to return to their native Argentina, which helped him to change his mind.

One problem remained to be decided — the bonuses to be paid to national team players. The difference between what was asked and what was

Argentina

BOCA JUNIORS topped the National "A" Division's opening championship by four points with five games to go, which appeared to make them favourites.

But their campaign was sprinkled with 0-0 draws and 1-0 wins — including one against their traditional rivals, River Plate — and their goals record after 14 matches was 17-4.

There is nothing wrong with their defence, except they are a bit rough at times, and **Carlos Navarro Montoya** — a Colombian who has taken out Argentine nationality in the hope of being chosen for the national team — had kept his goal intact for 766 minutes at press time. But their attacking moves lack skill.

Boca, however, have the easier remaining fixture list while their closest challengers, San Lorenzo and River Plate, have to meet.

During 1992 the 22 clubs in the top division — including two relegated at the end of 1991-92 — have had 50 coaches.

Only six clubs had the same one all year, including top clubs Boca **(Oscar Tabarez)** and River Plate **(Daniel Passarella)**. Two other big clubs, Independiente and San Lorenzo, have had five.

Players cannot be transferred once the season starts, so club boards can only vent their frustration on coaches after a few bad results. There are also numerous lawsuits started by coaches dismissed without having their contracts paid up.

Uruguay

THE intervention of a Catholic priest, Ernesto Popelka, a former player with Danubio and Nacional, helped to end a month-long players' strike.

The Uruguayan FA had suspended two Second Division clubs for a month after their fans had caused trouble — a decision which hurt the players, who had nothing to do with it.

Rumours spread that this strike was being backed by an agent, Francisco Casal, and Uruguayan players with Italian clubs, who had an interest in bringing down the Uruguayan FA.

The latter intend to ban transfers abroad during 1993 in view of the South American Championship and World Cup qualifiers, and coach Luis Cubilla steadfastly refuses to pick players from Europe for his squad — as was the case for the last Copa America.

As players were running short of cash, an Argentine TV firm offered their union £200,000 to stage two matches against the Argentine Players Union, with both sides including their players from Europe. UFA quickly put a stop to this by telling FIFA that the striking players were banned from playing anywhere.

With money running short, the union's position weakened and when the FA threatened to cancel the championship, the players decided to end the strike.

Ecuador

BARCELONA, the title holders, and Nacional had to play off for the title after both shared top place in the six-team final round.

But general opinion is that Emelec were the best team of the season. Sadly they were off form on the last day, when Nacional beat them 3-1 to eliminate them.

The first play-off was in Quito, where home team Nacional, backed by the armed forces and traditionally fielding only home-born players, won 2-1. The match was suspended for 25 minutes when a Nacional official hit a linesman, who had to be replaced.

Chile

FAN violence is increasing in Chile. Referees refused to control games involving champions Colo Colo, who had accused them of being part of a plot to stop them from winning the title again.

The club threatened again to form a break-away league while accusing FA officials of financial irregularities.

The man doing most of the accusing, Colo Colo president Eduardo Menichetti, apologised to the referees to settle one problem. Others remained latent as the championship continued.

Bolivia

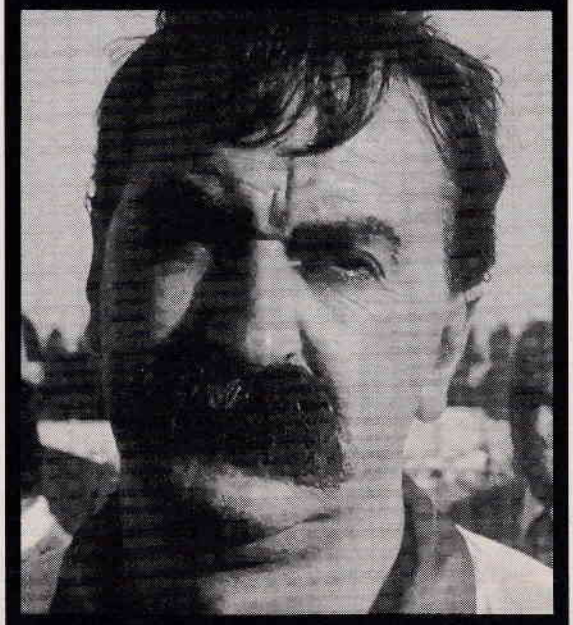
San Jose know the way

SAN JOSE gained a Libertadores Cup place for next year by winning a four-team play-off in Bolivia.

This is being followed by the eight-team final round of the championship, and the winner will take the other place as well as the national title.

Meanwhile the Bolivian national team, hardly ever in action outside World and South American championships, have a new coach — a Spaniard, **Xavier Azkargota** (below).

They are preparing for the 1993 South American Championship in June/July and World Cup qualifying games right afterwards.



Colombia

Coach quits

COLOMBIAN national coach Hernan Dario Gomez resigned for "private reasons" — said to be death threats.

Other soccer officials had

Peru

THE Peruvian champions have a long name and a familiar look — Universitario de Deportes took the title for a record 20th time.

Universitario, coached by a Yugoslav, **Ivan Brzic**, had nine of their players picked for the national team.

This caused a problem when the club refused to release men for national training under another Yugoslav coach, **Vladimir Popovic**. The national team had started preparations for the 1993 Copa America and World Cup qualifying games and the nine were threatened with being left out, but Universitario would not release them.

One of their outstanding players is **Ronald Baroni**, who is Peruvian born, but learnt his soccer in Argentina.

Universitario will play in the next Libertadores Cup for the 18th time, while the second cup team will come out of a six-team tournament between clubs two to six and the promotion winner from the regional leagues.

ERIC **WEIL**

being offered was quite large. In the First Division Necaxa led after 14 of 38 regular-season games with a two-point advantage over Monterey and a game in hand.

Expensive America — soon to have Argentina's Oscar Ruggeri joining them — continue to do worse than expected with a 7-3-4 record under former Brazilian national coach Falcao, who eventually bowed to the pressure and packed in the job.

In-fighting had not helped, Hugo Sanchez and Bernardo Fernandez had to be separated during a training match, and the antagonism between them continues.

after threats

also received threats lately . . . a never-ending story in Colombia.

Francisco Maturana, who preceded Gomez (left), might perhaps return.

America of Cali won the closing championship as well as topping the overall standings from which the top eight qualified for the final round.

This is now in progress, with America trailing Nacional in one of two groups at half-way.

Referees Juan Montoya and Elio Naranjo were banned for life for "doubtful refereeing", but the FA did not state when they favoured certain clubs, and which.

Another referee, Juan Gomez, was banned for the rest of the season after a match between America and Santa Fe.

Paraguay

OLIMPIA continue to dominate in Paraguay. Although occasionally playing with reserves while reaching the latter rounds of the CONMEBOL Cup and doing likewise in the Super Cup, they took second place in the second round of the First Division behind Cerro Porteno.

This gave them 0.75 of a bonus point for the final round.

A few days earlier Olimpia also fielded reserves in the play-off with Sportivo Luqueno, with whom they had shared top place in the first round . . . and won 2-0 to take another bonus point.

The top four in each round take bonus points into the eight-team final round (initially played in two groups). These were: Olimpia 1.75, Cerro Porteno one, Luqueno 0.75, Libertad and Atletico Collegiales 0.50, Guarani and Nacional 0.25, Presidente Hayes none.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **Junior** may not be the same as in the 1982 World Cup, but even at 38, he was the outstanding player of the Super Cup, although his team, Flamengo, did not win it.

He is an exponent of Brazil's legendary "jogo bonito" — short-passing touch soccer, quick changes of direction, intelligence — and dictates the rhythm of his team and the whole match.

On top of that he is still a regular in the Brazilian national team, again proving virtually unbeatable even if fans never seem to be satisfied.

Junior stands out in a country where lifestyle, climate and an intense domestic soccer programme tends to shorten the career of many players.

● **Jorge Emiliano Dos Santos,** the Brazilian referee better known as "Margarita" — he is an admitted homosexual — was rushed to hospital after a match and was undergoing tests for AIDS.

Dos Santos, who is 36 and had been officiating in the Rio League since 1988, had lost five kilos in weight the week before.

● **Carlos Javier MacAllister** was transferred by Argentinos Juniors to Boca Juniors at the start of the Argentine national championship.

There's nothing strange about that but to replace him in defence they got **Carlos Patricio MacAllister**, his brother, from Estudiantes de La Plata. The brothers come from a well-known family of the Argentine Irish community.

● **Oscar Ruggeri,** the Argentine national team captain, left Italy's financially ailing Ancona to join Mexico's America but on his way he stopped in Buenos Aires to train with the national team, preparing for a match against Poland in which he hoped to get his 72nd cap.

Ruggeri, last year's Footballer of the Year in Argentina, is the most-capped Argentine player still active.

● **Alejandro Mancusso,** the Argentine international midfielder, is likely to move from Velez Sarsfield to Real Betis (Spain) for around £330,000.

● **Hector Nunez,** Costa Rica's Uruguayan coach, was dismissed because of poor results in World Cup qualifying games which left Costa Rica out of the CONCACAF zone's final round. Nunez was blamed for under-estimating the opposition and not calling up players from abroad. Local coach **Marvin Rodriguez** replaced him.

TABLES

ARGENTINA
National A Division
(Opening Championship)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	14	9	5	0	17	4	23
River Plate	14	8	3	3	18	6	19
San Lorenzo	14	7	5	2	21	12	19
San Martin*	14	6	6	2	14	7	18
FC Oeste	14	5	7	2	11	6	17
Huracan	14	6	4	4	18	17	16
Lanus	14	5	4	5	14	14	14
Belgrano	14	5	4	5	16	18	14
Rosario	14	6	2	6	15	10	14
Estudiantes	14	5	3	6	17	12	13
Velez Sarsfield	14	5	3	6	15	12	13
Dep. Mandiyu	14	4	5	5	14	19	13
Talleres	14	4	5	5	11	17	13
Dep. Espanol	14	4	4	6	13	14	12
Argentinos Jun.	14	3	6	5	13	17	12
Platense	14	3	5	6	12	14	11
Independiente	14	3	5	6	10	17	11
Racing Club	14	3	4	7	8	14	10
Gimnasia	14	3	4	7	12	19	10
Newell's OB	14	2	4	8	8	18	8

* *Will have two points discounted at end.*

Relegation averages *(over last three seasons — two relegated):* Dep. Mandiyu 0,993; Argentinos Jun. 0,922; Estudiantes 0,900; Talleres 0,887.

BRAZIL
State Championships
Sao Paulo State *(regular season final standings — top six of green group and top two of yellow group qualify for semi-final round.)*

Green group (1st division)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sao Paulo	26	14	8	4	43	22	36
Palmeiras	26	12	9	5	30	16	33
Corinthians	26	12	8	6	32	20	32
Santos	26	10	12	4	29	33	32
Portuguesa	26	10	11	5	34	20	31
Guarani	26	8	14	4	30	25	30
Ituano	26	8	12	6	31	29	28
Bragantino	26	10	6	10	24	25	26
Noroeste	26	9	7	10	22	23	25
Juventus	26	8	9	9	25	27	25
Botafogo	26	7	7	12	24	37	21
Santo Andre	26	3	13	10	20	32	19
Saocarlense	26	4	8	14	23	40	16
Inter-Limeira	26	2	6	18	14	43	10

Yellow group (2nd division)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mogi Mirim	26	16	5	5	43	21	37
Ponte Preta	26	13	10	3	38	25	36
Rio Branco	26	13	8	5	35	20	34
Uniao Sao Joao	26	12	9	5	38	26	33
Marilia	26	11	8	7	36	29	30
XV Piracicaba	26	9	12	5	35	28	30
Olimpia	26	9	9	8	25	24	27
Novorizontina	26	9	8	9	30	26	26
Ferroviaria	26	9	6	11	25	22	24
America	26	8	7	11	39	39	23
Aracatuba	26	5	9	12	17	29	19
Sao Jose	26	4	11	11	22	33	19
XV de Jau	26	7	3	16	23	50	17
Catanduvense	26	1	7	18	9	48	9

Semi-final stage
(group winners play final)
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sao Paulo*	3	3	0	0	9	2	7
Portuguesa	3	2	0	1	3	3	4
Santos	3	1	0	2	2	5	2
Ponte Preta	3	0	0	3	2	6	0

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guarani	4	3	0	1	10	4	6
Palmeiras	4	3	0	1	5	5	6
Corinthians	4	1	1	2	6	7	3
Mogi Mirim	4	0	1	3	4	9	1

* *Sao Paulo get one bonus point for winning first stage.*

Guanabara State (2nd round)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasco da Gama	10	9	1	0	24	7	19
America/Tres Rios	10	4	4	2	12	10	12
Flamengo	8	5	1	2	14	6	11
Fluminense	9	4	3	2	13	8	11
Volta Redonda	9	4	2	3	11	10	10
Americano	9	3	4	2	9	8	10
Botafogo	10	2	6	2	11	13	10
Bangu	9	2	5	2	5	4	9
Olaria	10	3	3	4	8	8	9
Goytacaz	9	2	3	4	5	9	7
America/Rio	10	2	3	5	8	14	7
Itaperuna	8	2	2	4	6	14	6
Madureira	10	1	3	6	5	16	5
Campo Grande	9	1	2	6	7	11	4

(First and second stage winners and other team obtaining most points in both rounds play off for title. Vasco da Gama won first stage and if they win second stage they are automatic champions.)

PARAGUAY
First Division (2nd round — Final)
After 22 games: 1) Cerro Porteno 17pts; 2) Olimpia 16; 3) Libertad 15; 4) Guarani 14; 5) Atletico Colegiales 13; 6) Presidente Hayes 11; 7) River Plate, Cerro Cora 10; 9) Sol de America 8; 10) Sp. San Lorenzo, Nacional 7; 12) Sportivo Luqueno 4.
(Top four qualify for final round with bonus points of one, 0.75, 0.50 and 0.25 joining top four of first round.)

Final round
Group A: Libertad 4.50; Olimpia 3.75; Nacional, 2.25; Guarani 0.25.
Group B: Cerro Porteno 3; Sp. Luqueno 2.75; At. Colegiales 2.50; Presidente Hayes 2.

CHILE
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cobreloa	24	13	9	2	41	22	35
Univ. Catolica	24	13	8	3	58	21	34
Colo Colo	24	14	4	6	49	31	32
Univ. de. Chile	24	10	8	6	32	24	28
Un. Espanola	24	12	4	8	40	36	28
Antofagasta	24	8	8	8	29	27	24
Everton	24	8	7	9	38	38	23
O'Higgins	24	8	7	9	31	32	23
Cobresal	24	8	6	10	25	35	22
Coquimbo	24	7	8	9	35	44	22
Concepcion	24	7	7	10	31	39	21
Palestino	24	8	5	11	38	52	21
Fernandez Vial	24	4	12	8	23	27	20
Temuco	24	5	10	9	26	34	20
La Serena	24	6	7	11	21	30	19
Huachipato	24	3	6	15	26	55	12

PERU
First Division (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	30	19	5	6	53	22	43
Sporting Cristal	30	15	10	5	47	29	40
Melgar FC	30	14	9	7	48	28	37
Sport Boys	30	12	12	6	52	35	36
Alianza Lima	30	12	11	7	34	22	35
Cienciano	30	12	9	9	43	40	33
Leon de Huanuco	30	10	10	10	50	40	30
Union Minas	30	12	6	12	41	44	30
U. Cajamarca	30	12	5	13	38	53	29
Dep. Municipal	30	8	12	10	41	41	28
Alianza Sullana	30	10	7	13	35	51	27
Defensor Lima	30	7	12	11	38	46	26
San Agustin	30	7	12	11	34	45	26
Carlos Manucci	30	7	12	11	26	31	26
CN Iquitos	30	7	10	13	30	57	24
Dep. Yurimaguas	30	2	7	21	30	56	11

Botafogo's Dias (left) takes on Wallace of Goias.

COLOMBIA
First Division (2nd stage — final)
Closing championship: 1) America; 2) Atletico Juniors; 3) Nacional Medellin;4) Millonarios.
Overall final leaders: 1) America 57 pts; 2) Deportivo Cali 56; 3) Nacional 55; 4) Atletico Junior 54; 5) Independiente Santa Fe, Millonarios 53; 7) Union Magdalena, Bucaramanga 49.
(These top 8 teams qualify for final round with bonus points obtained by taking top four places in two previous rounds — America 1, Ind. Santa Fe 1, Dep. Cali 3/4, Nazcional 1 1/4, Union Magdalena 1/2, At. Junior 3/4, Millonarios 1/4.)

Semi-final round
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	3	2	1	0	7	4	5.75
America	3	0	3	0	9	9	4
Un. Magdalena	3	1	1	1	9	9	3.50
Ind. Santa Fe	3	0	1	2	5	8	2.

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At. Junior	3	2	1	0	7	4	5.75
Millonarios	3	1	1	1	7	5	3.25
Dep. Cali	3	1	0	2	3	4	2.75
Bucaramanga	3	1	0	2	5	9	2

VENEZUELA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Minerven	4	3	0	1	11	4	6
Caracas FC	4	2	2	0	7	2	6
Maritimo	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Monagas	4	3	0	1	5	3	6
Mineros	4	2	1	1	8	5	5
Lara	4	1	3	0	3	2	5
Tachira	4	2	1	1	7	7	5
Anzoategui	4	1	2	1	7	4	4
Estudiantes	4	2	0	2	4	2	4
Un. de los Andes	4	1	2	1	3	2	4
Trujillanos	4	0	4	0	5	5	4
Llaneros	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Portuguesa	4	0	2	2	1	7	2
Galicia	3	0	1	2	5	7	1
Italia	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
Zamora	4	0	0	4	1	13	0

ECUADOR
First Division final round
After 10 games: 1) Nacional, Barcelona 15pts; 3) Emelec 13; 4) Green Cross 8; 5) Liga Deportiva Universitaria 7; 6) Deportivo Quito 6.

BOLIVIA
National championship (2nd stage — final)
After 6 games: 1) San Jose 8pts; 2) Oriente Petrolero 6; 3) Bolivar. The Strongest 5.

MEXICO
First Division
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Queretaro	14	5	2	7	12	20	12
Veracruz	14	4	2	8	17	26	10
Santos	14	3	4	7	14	26	10
Atlante	13	2	5	6	20	21	9
U. Tamaulipas	14	1	4	9	9	25	6

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Necaxa	13	10	2	1	32	13	22
U.A. Guadalajara	14	7	5	2	17	9	19
America	14	7	3	4	21	19	17
Puebla	13	6	4	3	21	18	16
Morelia	13	2	5	6	12	22	9

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	14	6	3	5	23	18	15
U. Leon	14	4	7	3	23	20	15
Guadalajara	14	6	1	7	17	20	13
Atlas	14	4	4	6	14	21	12
U.Guadalajara	14	4	4	6	16	19	12

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monterrey	14	7	6	1	22	13	20
UNAM	14	6	4	4	29	20	16
Leon	14	7	3	4	27	16	17
Toluca	14	4	6	4	21	18	14
Pachuca	14	4	5	5	10	12	13

HONDURAS
First Division
After 11 games: 1) Marathon 16pts; 2) Petrotela, Olimpia 14; 4) Ral Espana 13; 5) Motagua, Real Maya, Victoria 11; 8) Platense 9; 9) Vida 7; 10) Super Estrella 2.

EL SALVADOR
First Division
After 12 games: 1) FAS 17pts; 2) Luis Angel Firpo 16; 3) Baygon-Adet 14; 4) Cojutepeque 13; 5) Alianza 12; 6) Apaneca, Tiburones 11; 8) Aguila, Marte 9; 10) Fuerte San Francisco 8.

GUATEMALA
First Division
After 11 games: 1) Suchitepequez, Aurora 17pts; 3) Galcasa, Amatitlan 13; 5) Comunicaciones, Chiquimulilla 12; 7) Escuintla 10; 8) Izabal 9; 9) Municipal, Tipografia Nacional 8; 11) Del Monte 6; 12) Juventus Retalteca 4.

Four coaches in six months

FORMER Peruvian international midfielder Augusto Palacios has become the fourth South African national coach in only six months.

Palacios also played in Central America, Europe and Australia and has coached a number of leading South African teams. He had been playing at the age of 41, as well as coaching Durban-based Manning Rangers.

The South African FA, picked a championship-winning duo, to lead them back into the international arena: Jeff Butler (with Kazier Chiefs 1989 and 1991) and Stanley Tshalabala (with Mamelodi Sundowns 1988 and 1990), as coach and assistant.

Butler resigned, even before the debut against Cameroon, following controversy surrounding his professional playing record in England. Tshalabala took over and recruited Ephraim Mashaba from Vaal Reefs Stars as assistant.

Tshalabala was sacked after an incident with a journalist, following the national team's 4-0 defeat in Nigeria, and Mashaba took over as caretaker, for the home defeat of Congo, by 1-0.

A number of leading players have engaged Marcelo Houseman, brother of Rene, the former Argentine star, as agent. He handled the transfer of Fani Madida, from Kaizer Chiefs to Besitkas of Turkey, and is working for two midfielders seeing English clubs, Doctor Khumalo on trial with Aston Villa and Ernest Chirwali, originally from Malawi, with Nottingham Forest. Inevitably more players will be taking similar routes.

With the season almost complete, Kaizer Chiefs and Hellenic look set to be playing in the African club cup competitions next year. Chiefs are favourites to overhaul Hellenic of Cape Town.

BARRY **BAKER**

SOUTH AFRICA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hellenic	41	23	11	7	82	38	57
Kaizer Chiefs	37	21	11	5	63	20	53
Orlando Pirates	40	21	8	11	47	37	50
Wits University	40	19	10	11	49	28	48
Mamelodi Sundowns	40	16	15	9	61	43	47
Jomo Cosmos	41	18	11	12	64	48	47
Lightbodys Santos	40	14	16	10	44	40	44
Moroka Swallows	40	16	11	13	52	42	43
Witbank Total Aces	40	15	13	12	41	38	43
Cape Town Spurs	40	13	16	11	45	40	42
Ratanang	40	14	14	12	38	37	42
Dynamos	40	14	13	13	51	52	42
Fairway Stars	41	13	13	14	38	34	37
Bloemfontein Celtic	40	11	16	13	52	48	38
Amazulu	39	12	14	13	44	46	38
Pretoria City	40	15	7	18	44	50	37
Umtata Bucks	40	11	14	15	31	40	36
Highlands Park	40	12	11	17	34	35	35
Vaal Reefs Stars	41	12	10	19	32	52	34
Crusaders United	40	9	13	18	32	58	31
Manning Rangers	38	8	9	21	34	52	25
Dangerous Darkies	42	1	5	36	27	122	7

Kaizer Chiefs' Doctor Khumalo (stripes) is having trials with Aston Villa.

Stars shoot to CAF success

NIGERIA'S Shooting Stars were appropriate first winners of the CAF Cup — Africa's answer to Europe's UEFA Cup.

After all, Nigerian business magnate Chief M.K.O. Abiola donated the gold-plated emblem of Africa as the trophy for the new competition, and Ibadan, Nigeria, is now its first home.

Stars, the newly-crowned Nigerian champions, defeated Uganda's Nakivubo Sports Villa 3-0 in the second leg of the final, after the teams had drawn 0-0 in Kampala.

A 38-year-old midfielder, Felix Owolabi, emerged as a surprising hero with his midfield play and runs into the penalty area.

He was tripped for the first goal from the penalty spot, and then fouled just outside the box for a free-kick from which Stars scored their second goal.

This was a remarkable win for the Nigerian team, who lost six of their players en route from their semi-final first leg against CA Bizerte in Tunisia.

The players, now suspended by FIFA, all skipped from the transit lounge to seek transfers in Europe, but Nigerian international Taofil Malik subsequently returned in time to help Stars win the semi-final and become the only team to have played in the final of all three African club competitions.

MARK **GLEESON**

● **BRISTOL CITY striker Leroy Rosenior** could be in line for a surprise World Cup call up . . . for Sierra Leone.

28-year-old Rosenior was born in London, but qualifies through his parents who come from Sierra Leone and still have a house there.

Bristol City have agreed to release Rosenior if he is selected to play in Sierra Leone's next World Cup tie against Togo on January 9.

Jimmy — father of African football

WHO was the first famous footballer to emerge from Africa?

Depends what you mean by famous — there are various possible answers.

Salif Keita was the initial winner of the African Player of the Year award, in 1970, but Eusebio had been knocking in the goals ten years before that, and Rachid Mekhloufi was playing professionally in France before Eusebio arrived in Portugal.

Going back to the twenties we can find Egyptian players such as Husein Hegazi and Al-Hassani who have left a lasting legacy. A few years on, the Moroccan Larbi Ben Barek was outstanding in France.

I go back even further and bring to your attention a man I know only as Jimmy. That was not his real name, but in some ways I have come to see him as the symbolic father of all African footballers who were to follow.

I first came across Jimmy when researching African football in the dusty archives of the Kenyan National Library. I was trying to discover something of the genesis of football in East Africa when I saw his name recurring in several newspaper reports.

Sports then had to be seasonal, the same few men playing cricket, then rugby and — come October — soccer. Even so they struggled to make up a full team.

For example, on the opening day of the 1906 season, Mombassa FC could field only eight players and borrowed three Africans from the crowd.

This opening match was against the local Kenyans. By half-time the score was 2-0 to the locals, with a man identified only as Jimmy dribbling past the full-backs to score one of the goals. Later in the week the local paper carried a report which described Jimmy as having "developed into a good exponent of the game."

How typical of the times that the reporter, almost certainly a Mombassa player could not be bothered to find the man's real name. And "good exponent indeed" — how they must have hated this young, fresh youth running past them, all athletic grace and power.

Indeed, even as they praised him, they hinted that an African would never become a really good player, adding "but his excellent play is spoilt by his tendency to get offside".

Jimmy was again the star, and added to his collection of cuttings, later in the year when Mombassa played The Boys in a special King's Birthday Match.

With the season well under way Mombassa were at full strength — names such as Muir and Ross testifying to the Caledonian contribution in the team — and they took on the locals in front of a screaming crowd of several thousand.

BOB **PATEMAN**

WorldCup

● **CAMEROON'S** World Cup qualifying campaign has again been disrupted by political unrest.

Their match against Zaire in Kinshasa on December 20 was postponed by FIFA after the political problems in Zaire.

In October Cameroon's match against Liberia in Monrovia also was cancelled indefinitely, due to the war in that country.

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WorldCup USA94

1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GROUPS

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1

16.08.92	Estonia v Switzerland	0-6
09.09.92	Switzerland v Scotland	3-1
14.10.92	Italy v Switzerland	2-2
14.10.92	Scotland v Portugal	0-0
25.10.92	Malta v Estonia	0-0
18.11.92	Scotland v Italy	0-0
18.11.92	Switzerland v Malta	3-0
19.12.92	Malta v Italy	
24.01.93	Malta v Portugal	
17.02.93	Scotland v Malta	
24.02.93	Portugal v Italy	
24.03.93	Italy v Malta	
31.03.93	Switzerland v Portugal	
14.04.93	Italy v Estonia	
17.04.93	Malta v Switzerland	
28.04.93	Portugal v Scotland	
01.05.93	Switzerland v Italy	
12.05.93	Estonia v Malta	
19.05.93	Estonia v Scotland	
02.06.93	Scotland v Estonia	
19.06.93	Portugal v Malta	
05.09.93	Estonia v Portugal	
08.09.93	Scotland v Switzerland	
22.09.93	Estonia v Italy	
13.10.93	Portugal v Switzerland	
13.10.93	Italy v Scotland	
10.11.93	Portugal v Estonia	
17.11.93	Italy v Portugal	
17.11.93	Malta v Scotland	
17.11.93	Switzerland v Estonia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	4	3	1	0	14	3	7
Italy	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Scotland	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Portugal	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Malta	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Estonia	2	0	1	1	0	6	1

GROUP 2

09.09.92	Norway v San Marino	10-0
23.09.92	Norway v Holland	2-1
23.09.92	Poland v Turkey	1-0
07.10.92	San Marino v Norway	0-2
14.10.92	England v Norway	1-1
14.10.92	Holland v Poland	2-2
28.10.92	Turkey v San Marino	4-1
18.11.92	England v Turkey	4-0
16.12.92	Turkey v Holland	
17.02.93	England v San Marino	
24.02.93	Holland v Turkey	
10.03.93	San Marino v Turkey	
24.03.93	Holland v San Marino	
31.03.93	Turkey v England	
28.04.93	England v Holland	
28.04.93	Norway v Turkey	
28.04.93	Poland v San Marino	
19.05.93	San Marino v Poland	
29.05.93	Poland v England	
02.06.93	Norway v England	
09.06.93	Holland v Norway	
08.09.93	England v Poland	
22.09.93	Norway v Poland	
22.09.93	San Marino v Holland	
13.10.93	Holland v England	
13.10.93	Poland v Norway	
27.10.93	Turkey v Poland	
10.11.93	Turkey v Norway	
16.11.93	San Marino v England	
17.11.93	Poland v Holland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	4	3	1	0	15	2	7
England	2	1	1	0	5	1	3
Poland	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Turkey	3	1	0	2	4	6	2
Holland	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
San Marino	3	0	0	3	1	16	0

GROUP 3

22.04.92	Spain v Albania	3-0
28.04.92	Northern Ireland v Lithuania	2-2
26.05.92	Rep. of Ireland v Albania	2-0
03.06.92	Albania v Lithuania	1-0
12.08.92	Latvia v Lithuania	1-2
26.08.92	Latvia v Denmark	0-0
09.09.92	Rep. of Ireland v Latvia	4-0
09.09.92	Northern Ireland v Albania	3-0
23.09.92	Latvia v Spain	0-0
23.09.92	Lithuania v Denmark	0-0
14.10.92	Denmark v Rep. of Ireland	0-0
14.10.92	Northern Ireland v Spain	0-0
28.10.92	Lithuania v Latvia	1-1
11.11.92	Albania v Latvia	1-1
18.11.92	Northern Ireland v Denmark	0-1
18.11.92	Spain v Rep. of Ireland	0-0
16.12.92	Spain v Latvia	
17.02.93	Albania v Northern Ireland	
24.02.93	Spain v Lithuania	
31.03.93	Denmark v Spain	
31.03.93	Rep. of Ireland v Northern Ireland	
14.04.93	Denmark v Latvia	
14.04.93	Lithuania v Albania	
28.04.93	Rep. of Ireland v Denmark	
28.04.93	Spain v Northern Ireland	
15.05.93	Latvia v Albania	
25.05.93	Lithuania v Northern Ireland	
26.05.93	Albania v Rep. of Ireland	
02.06.93	Denmark v Albania	
02.06.93	Latvia v Northern Ireland	
02.06.93	Lithuania v Spain	
09.06.93	Latvia v Rep. of Ireland	
16.06.93	Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland	
25.08.93	Denmark v Lithuania	
08.09.93	Albania v Denmark	
08.09.93	Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania	
08.09.93	Northern Ireland v Latvia	
22.09.93	Albania v Spain	
13.10.93	Denmark v Northern Ireland	
13.10.93	Rep. of Ireland v Spain	
17.11.93	Northern Ireland v Rep. of Ireland	
17.11.93	Spain v Denmark	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rep. of Ireland	4	2	2	0	6	0	6
Spain	4	1	3	0	3	0	5
Denmark	4	1	3	0	1	0	5
Lithuania	5	1	3	1	5	5	5
N. Ireland	4	1	2	0	5	3	4
Latvia	6	0	4	2	3	8	4
Albania	5	1	1	3	2	9	3

GROUP 4

22.04.92	Belgium v Cyprus	1-0
06.05.92	Romania v Faroe Islands	7-0
20.05.92	Romania v Wales	5-1
03.06.92	Faroe Islands v Belgium	0-3
18.06.92	Faroe Islands v Cyprus	0-2
02.09.92	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	1-2
09.09.92	Wales v Faroe Islands	6-0
23.09.92	Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands	4-0
14.10.92	Belgium v Romania	1-0
14.10.92	Cyprus v Wales	0-1
14.11.92	Romania v Czechoslovakia	1-1
18.11.92	Wales v Belgium	2-0
29.11.92	Cyprus v Romania	1-4
02.01.93	Cyprus v Belgium	
24.03.93	Cyprus v Czechoslovakia	
31.03.93	Belgium v Wales	
14.04.93	Romania v Cyprus	
25.04.93	Cyprus v Faroe Islands	
28.04.93	Czechoslovakia v Wales	
22.05.93	Belgium v Faroe Islands	
02.06.93	Czechoslovakia v Romania	
06.06.93	Faroe Islands v Wales	
16.06.93	Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia	
08.09.93	Wales v Czechoslovakia	
08.09.93	Faroe Islands v Romania	
13.10.93	Romania v Belgium	
13.10.93	Wales v Cyprus	
27.10.93	Czechoslovakia v Cyprus	
17.11.93	Wales v Romania	
17.11.93	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	5	5	0	0	9	1	10
Romania	5	3	1	1	17	4	7
Wales	4	2	0	2	8	7	4
Czechoslovakia	3	1	1	1	6	3	3
Cyprus	4	1	0	3	3	6	2
Faroe Islands	5	0	0	5	0	22	0

GROUP 5

13.05.92	Greece v Iceland	1-0
03.06.92	Hungary v Iceland	1-2
09.09.92	Luxembourg v Hungary	0-3
07.10.92	Iceland v Greece	0-1
14.10.92	Russia v Iceland	1-0
28.10.92	Russia v Luxembourg	2-0
11.11.92	Greece v Hungary	0-0
17.02.93	Greece v Luxembourg	
31.03.93	Hungary v Greece	
14.04.93	Luxembourg v Russia	
28.04.93	Russia v Hungary	
20.05.93	Russia v Greece	
20.05.93	Luxembourg v Iceland	
02.06.93	Iceland v Russia	
16.06.93	Iceland v Hungary	
08.09.93	Hungary v Russia	
08.09.93	Iceland v Luxembourg	
12.10.93	Luxembourg v Greece	
27.10.93	Hungary v Luxembourg	
17.11.93	Greece v Russia	

★ *Yugoslavia excluded due to UN sanctions.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	3	2	1	0	2	0	5
Russia	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Hungary	3	1	1	1	4	2	3
Iceland	4	1	0	3	2	4	2
Luxembourg	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

GROUP 6

14.05.92	Finland v Bulgaria	0-3
09.09.92	Bulgaria v France	2-0
09.09.92	Finland v Sweden	0-1
07.10.92	Sweden v Bulgaria	3-0
14.10.92	France v Austria	2-0
28.10.92	Austria v Israel	5-2
11.11.92	Israel v Sweden	1-3
14.11.92	France v Finland	2-1
02.12.92	Israel v Bulgaria	0-2
17.02.93	Israel v France	
27.03.93	Austria v France	
14.04.93	Austria v Bulgaria	
28.04.93	France v Sweden	
28.04.93	Bulgaria v Finland	
12.05.93	Bulgaria v Israel	
13.05.93	Finland v Austria	
19.05.93	Sweden v Austria	
02.06.93	Sweden v Israel	
16.06.93	Finland v Israel	
22.08.93	Sweden v France	
25.08.93	Austria v Finland	
08.09.93	Finland v France	
08.09.93	Bulgaria v Sweden	
13.10.93	France v Israel	
13.10.93	Bulgaria v Austria	
13.10.93	Sweden v Finland	
27.20.93	Israel v Austria	
10.11.93	Austria v Sweden	
10.11.93	Israel v Finland	
17.11.93	France v Bulgaria	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	4	3	0	1	7	2	6
Sweden	3	3	0	0	6	1	6
France	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
Austria	2	1	0	1	5	4	2
Finland	3	0	0	3	1	6	0
Israel	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members)

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round
GROUP A

09.10.92	Algeria v Burundi	3-1
25.10.92	Burundi v Ghana	1-0
20.12.92	Ghana v Algeria	
17.01.93	Burundi v Algeria	
31.01.93	Ghana v Burundi	
26.02.93	Algeria v Ghana	

★ *Uganda withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Burundi	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Ghana	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP B

11.10.92	Zaire v Liberia	4-2
18.10.92	Cameroon v Swaziland	5-0
25.10.92	Liberia v Cameroon — postponed	
25.10.92	Swaziland v Zaire	1-0
20.12.92	Swaziland v Liberia	
20.12.92	Zaire v Cameroon	
17.01.93	Swaziland v Cameroon	
17.01.93	Liberia v Zaire	
31.01.93	Cameroon v Liberia	
31.01.93	Zaire v Swaziland	
28.02.93	Cameroon v Zaire	
28.02.93	Liberia v Swaziland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swaziland	2	1	0	1	6	0	2
Cameroon	1	1	0	0	5	0	2
Zaire	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
Liberia	1	0	0	1	2	4	0

GROUP C

11.10.92	Egypt v Angola	1-0
11.10.92	Zimbabwe v Togo	1-0
25.10.92	Angola v Zimbabwe — postponed	
25.10.92	Togo v Egypt	1-4
20.12.92	Angola v Togo	
20.12.92	Zimbabwe v Egypt	
17.01.93	Angola v Egypt	
17.01.93	Togo v Zimbabwe	
31.01.93	Egypt v Togo	
31.01.93	Zimbabwe v Angola	
28.02.93	Egypt v Zimbabwe	
28.02.93	Togo v Angola	

★ *Sierra Leone withdrew, Togo replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
Zimbabwe	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Angola	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Togo	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

GROUP D

10.10.92	Nigeria v South Africa	4-0
25.10.92	South Africa v Congo	1-0
20.12.92	Congo v Nigeria	
17.01.93	South Africa v Nigeria	
31.01.93	Congo v South Africa	
27.02.93	Nigeria v Congo	

★ *Sao Tome e Principe withdrew, Libya were suspended.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	1	1	0	0	4	0	2
South Africa	2	1	0	1	1	4	2
Congo	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP E

10.10.92	Ivory Coast v Botswana	6-0
25.10.92	Niger v Ivory Coast	0-0
20.12.92	Botswana v Niger	
17.01.93	Botswana v Ivory Coast	
31.01.93	Ivory Coast v Niger	
28.02.93	Niger v Botswana	

★ *Sudan withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	2	1	1	0	6	0	3
Niger	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Botswana	1	0	0	1	0	6	0

GROUP F

11.10.92	Morocco v Ethiopia	5-0
11.10.92	Tunisia v Benin	5-1
25.10.92	Ethiopia v Tunisia	0-0
25.10.92	Benin v Morocco	0-1
20.12.92	Tunisia v Morocco	
20.12.92	Ethiopia v Benin	
17.01.93	Ethiopia v Morocco	
17.01.93	Benin v Tunisia	
31.01.93	Tunisia v Ethiopia	
31.01.93	Morocco v Benin	
28.03.93	Benin v Ethiopia	
28.03.93	Morocco v Tunisia	

★ *Malawi withdrew, Benin replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morocco	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Tunisia	2	1	1	0	5	1	3
Ethiopia	2	0	1	1	0	5	1
Benin	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

GROUP G

11.10.92	Gabon v Mozambique	3-1
25.10.92	Mozambique v Senegal	0-1
19.12.92	Gabon v Senegal	
17.02.93	Mozambique v Gabon	
30.01.93	Senegal v Mozambique	
27.02.93	Senegal v Gabon	

★ *Mauritania withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gabon	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Senegal	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Mozambique	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

GROUP H

10.10.92	Zambia v Tanzania	2-0
11.01.92	Madagascar v Namibia	3-0
24.10.92	Tanzania v Madagascar	0-0
25.10.92	Namibia v Zambia	0-4
19.12.92	Tanzania v Namibia	
20.12.92	Madagascar v Zambia	
16.01.93	Tanzania v Zambia	
17.01.93	Namibia v Madagascar	
30.01.93	Zambia v Namibia	
31.01.93	Madagascar v Tanzania	
27.02.93	Zambia v Madagascar	
28.02.93	Namibia v Tanzania	

★ *Burkina Faso withdrew, Namibia replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zambia	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Madagascar	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
Tanzania	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Namibia	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

GROUP I

20.12.92	Guinea v Kenya	
27.02.93	Kenya v Guinea	

★ *Gambia & Mali withdrew.*

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Winners of Group A play (home & away) against winners of Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Pre-preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

21.03.92	Dominican Rep. v P. Rico	1-2
22.03.92	St Lucia v St Vincent	1-0
29.03.92	P. Rico v Dominican Rep.	1-1
29.03.92	St Vincent v St Lucia	3-1

Preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

26.04.92	Bermuda v Haiti	1-0
25.05.92	Jamaica v Puerto Rico	2-1
25.05.92	Haiti v Bermuda	2-1
30.05.92	Puerto Rico v Jamaica	0-1
	St Vincent v Cuba★	

★ *Cuba withdrew.*

St Vincent, Bermuda & Jamaica qualify for 1st md

CARIBBEAN REGION — SOUTH

19.04.92	Dutch Antilles v Antigua	1-1
26.04.92	Antigua v Dutch Antilles	3-0
26.04.92	Guyana v Surinam	1-2
24.05.92	Barbados v Trin. & Tobago	1-2
25.05.92	Surinam v Guyana	1-1
31.05.92	Trin. & Tobago v Barbados	3-0

Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua and Surinam qualify for 1st md

First Round
CENTRAL REGION

19.07.92	Guatemala v Honduras	0-0
19.07.92	Nicaragua v El Salvador	0-5
23.07.92	El Salvador v Nicaragua	5-1
26.07.92	Honduras v Guatemala	2-0
16.08.92	Panama v Costa Rica	1-0
23.08.92	Costa Rica v Panama	5-1

El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica qualify for 2nd md

CARIBBEAN REGION

14.06.92	Antigua v Bermuda	0-3
05.07.92	Trinidad & Tobago v Jamaica	1-2
04.07.92	Bermuda v Antigua	2-1
02.08.92	Surinam v St Vincent	0-0
16.08.92	Jamaica v Trinidad & Tobago	1-1
30.08.92	St Vincent v Surinam	2-1

Bermuda, Jamaica and St Vincent qualify for 2nd md

Second Round
GROUP A

08.11.92	Costa Rica v Honduras	2-3
08.11.92	St Vincent v Mexico	0-4
15.11.92	Mexico v Honduras	2-0
15.11.92	St Vincent v Costa Rica	0-1
22.11.92	Mexico v Costa Rica	4-0
22.11.92	St Vincent v Honduras	0-4
28.11.92	Honduras v St Vincent	4-0
29.11.92	Costa Rica v Mexico	2-0
05.12.92	Honduras v Costa Rica	2-1
06.12.92	Mexico v St Vincent	11-0
13.12.92	Costa Rica v St Vincent	
13.12.92	Honduras v Mexico	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	5	4	0	1	21	2	8
HONDURAS	5	4	1	0	13	5	8
Costa Rica	5	2	1	2	6	9	4
St. Vincent	5	0	0	5	0	24	0

Mexico & Honduras qualify for final md

GROUP B

18.10.92	Jamaica v Canada	1-1
18.10.92	Bermuda v El Salvador	1-0
25.10.92	El Salvador v Canada	1-1
25.10.92	Bermuda v Jamaica	1-1
01.11.92	Canada v Jamaica	1-0
01.11.92	El Salvador v Bermuda	4-1
08.11.92	Canada v El Salvador	2-3
08.11.92	Jamaica v Bermuda	3-2
15.11.92	Canada v Bermuda	4-2
22.11.92	Jamaica v El Salvador	0-2
06.12.92	Bermuda v Canada	0-0
06.12.92	El Salvador v Jamaica	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EL SALVADOR	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
CANADA	6	2	2	2	9	7	7
Jamaica	6	1	1	4	6	9	4
Bermuda	6	1	4	1	7	12	4

El Salvador & Canada qualify for final md

SOUTH AMERICA

9 entries (10 members, Chile suspended)

● Winners of Group A & winners & runners-up in Group B qualify for finals. Group A runners-up play winners of CONCACAF/ Oceania play-off for a place in the finals.

GROUP A

Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru.

01.08.93	Colombia v Paraguay
01.08.93	Peru v Argentina
08.08.93	Paraguay v Argentina
08.08.93	Peru v Colombia
15.08.93	Colombia v Argentina
15.08.93	Paraguay v Peru
22.08.93	Argentina v Peru
22.08.93	Paraguay v Colombia
29.08.93	Argentina v Paraguay
29.08.93	Colombia v Peru
05.09.93	Argentina v Colombia
05.09.93	Peru v Paraguay

GROUP B

Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela.

08.07.93	Ecuador v Brazil
08.07.93	Venezuela v Bolivia

Group 1 action as Switzerland's Knup (right) leaves Malta's Vella trailing. Switzerland won the match 3-0.

25.07.93 Bolivia v Brazil
25.07.93 Venezuela v Uruguay
01.08.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
01.08.93 Venezuela v Brazil
08.08.93 Bolivia v Uruguay
08.08.93 Ecuador v Venezuela
15.08.93 Bolivia v Ecuador
15.08.93 Uruguay v Brazil
22.08.93 Bolivia v Venezuela
22.08.93 Brazil v Ecuador
29.08.93 Brazil v Bolivia
29.08.93 Uruguay v Venezuela
05.09.93 Brazil v Venezuela
05.09.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
12.09.93 Uruguay v Bolivia
12.09.93 Venezuela v Ecuador
19.09.93 Brazil v Uruguay
19.09.93 Ecuador v Bolivia

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● *The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.*

GROUP 1

11.07.92 Solomon Islands v Tahiti 1-1
04.09.92 Solomon Islands v Australia 1-2
11.09.92 Tahiti v Australia 0-3
20.09.92 Australia v Tahiti 2-0
25.09.92 Australia v Solomon Islands 9-1
09.10.92 Tahiti v Solomon Islands 4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRALIA	4	4	0	0	13	2	8
Tahiti	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Solomon Islands	4	0	1	3	5	13	1

Australia qualify for final play-off

GROUP 2

07.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji 3-0
27.06.92 Vanuatu v New Zealand 1-4
01.07.92 New Zealand v Vanuatu 8-0
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu 3-0
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand 0-0
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji 0-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NEW ZEALAND	4	3	1	0	15	1	7
Fiji	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Vanuatu	4	0	0	4	1	19	0

New Zealand qualify for final play-off

PLAY-OFF

1st leg
29.05.93 *or*
30.05.93 New Zealand v Australia
2nd leg
05.06.93 *or*
06.06.93 Australia v New Zealand

ASIA

29 entries (36 members)

● *The six Group winners qualify for Second Round, to be played as (home & away) mini-league. Winners & runners-up qualify for finals.*

First Round
GROUP A

22.05.93 Jordan v Yemen ▲
22.05.93 Pakistan v China ▲
24.05.93 Jordan v Iraq ▲
24.05.93 Yemen v Pakistan ▲
26.05.93 Jordan v China ▲
26.05.93 Yemen v Iraq ▲
28.05.93 Pakistan v Iraq ▲
28.05.93 Yemen v China ▲
30.05.93 Jordan v Pakistan ▲
30.05.93 Iraq v China ▲
12.06.93 Yemen v Jordan ▼
12.06.93 China v Pakistan ▼
14.06.93 Iraq v Jordan ▼
14.06.93 Pakistan v Yemen ▼
16.06.93 China v Jordan ▼
16.06.93 Iraq v Yemen ▼
18.06.93 Iraq v Pakistan ▼
18.06.93 China v Yemen ▼
20.06.93 Pakistan v Jordan ▼
20.06.93 China v Iraq ▼
▲ in Amman, Jordan
▼ in Beijing, China

GROUP B

28.06.93 Iran v Oman ▲
28.06.93 Taiwan v Syria ▲
30.06.93 Oman v Syria ▲
30.06.93 Iran v Taiwan ▲
02.07.93 Oman v Taiwan ▲
02.07.93 Iran v Syria ▲
07.07.93 Oman v Iran ▼
07.07.93 Syria v Taiwan ▼
09.07.93 Syria v Oman ▼
09.07.93 Taiwan v Iran ▼
11.07.93 Taiwan v Oman ▼
11.07.93 Syria v Iran ▼
▲ in Tehran, Iran
▼ in Damascus, Syria
★ *Myanmar withdrew.*

GROUP C

09.04.93 Qatar v Indonesia ▲
09.04.93 North Korea v Vietnam ▲
11.04.93 North Korea v Singapore ▲
11.04.93 Qatar v Vietnam ▲
13.04.93 North Korea v Indonesia ▲
13.04.93 Vietnam v Singapore ▲
16.04.93 Qatar v Singapore ▲
16.04.93 Vietnam v Indonesia ▲
24.04.93 Indonesia v Qatar ▼
24.04.93 Vietnam v North Korea ▼
26.04.93 Singapore v North Korea ▼
26.04.93 Vietnam v Qatar ▼
28.04.93 Indonesia v North Korea ▼
28.04.93 Singapore v Vietnam ▼
30.04.93 Singapore v Qatar ▼
30.04.93 Indonesia v Vietnam ▼
02.05.93 Singapore v Indonesia ▼
02.05.93 North Korea v Qatar ▼
▲ in Doha, Qatar
▼ in Singapore

GROUP D

07.05.93 Lebanon v India ▲
07.05.93 Hong Kong v Bahrain ▲
09.05.93 Bahrain v South Korea ▲
09.05.93 Lebanon v Hong Kong ▲
11.05.93 India v Hong Kong ▲
11.05.93 Lebanon v South Korea ▲
13.05.93 Lebanon v Bahrain ▲
13.05.93 India v South Korea ▲
15.05.93 Hong Kong v South Korea ▲
15.05.93 Bahrain v India ▲
05.06.93 South Korea v Hong Kong ▼
05.06.93 Bahrain v Lebanon ▼
07.06.93 India v Bahrain ▼
07.06.93 South Korea v Lebanon ▼
09.06.93 Hong Kong v Lebanon ▼
09.06.93 South Korea v India ▼
11.06.93 India v Lebanon ▼
11.06.93 Bahrain v Hong Kong ▼
13.06.93 South Korea v Bahrain ▼
13.06.93 Hong Kong v India ▼
▲ in Beirut, Lebanon
▼ in Seoul, South Korea

GROUP E

01.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▲
01.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▲
03.05.93 Kuwait v Macao ▲
03.05.93 Malaysia v Saudi Arabia ▲
05.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▲
05.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▲
14.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▼
14.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▼
16.05.93 Macao v Kuwait ▼
16.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Malaysia ▼
18.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▼
18.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▼
▲ in Kuala Lumpur
▼ in Riyadh

GROUP F

06.04.93 Japan v Thailand ▲
08.04.93 Sri Lanka v UAE ▲
11.04.93 Japan v Bangladesh ▲
11.04.93 Thailand v Sri Lanka ▲
13.04.93 Sri Lanka v Bangladesh ▲
13.04.93 UAE v Thailand ▲
15.04.93 Japan v Sri Lanka ▲
15.04.93 UAE v Bangladesh ▲
18.04.93 Japan v UAE ▲
18.04.93 Thailand v Bangladesh ▲
28.04.93 Thailand v Japan ▼
28.04.93 UAE v Sri Lanka ▼
30.04.93 Bangladesh v Japan ▼
30.04.93 Thailand v UAE ▼
03.05.93 Bangladesh v UAE ▼
03.05.93 Sri Lanka v Thailand ▼
05.05.93 Bangladesh v Thailand ▼
05.05.93 Sri Lanka v Japan ▼
07.05.93 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka ▼
07.05.93 UAE v Japan ▼
▲ in Tokyo, Japan
▼ in Dubai, UAE

BIGGEST WORLD CUP VICTORIES

Score	Opponents	Date	Venue	Stage
13-0	New Zealand v Fiji	16.06.82	Auckland	qual
12-0	West Germany v Cyprus	21.05.70	Essen	qual
11-0	Mexico v St Vincent	06.12.92	Mexico City	qual
11-1	Hungary v Greece	25.03.36	Budapest	qual
11-1	Trinidad v Antigua	10.11.74	Port of Spain	qual
10-0	Soviet Union* v Finland	15.08.58	Helsinki	qual
10-0	Australia v Fiji	14.06.82	Melbourne	qual
10-0	Norway v San Marino	09.09.92	Oslo	qual
10-1	Hungary v El Salvador	15.06.82	Elche	finals
9-0	Spain v Portugal	11.03.34	Madrid	qual
9-0	Hungary v South Korea	17.06.54	Zurich	finals
9-0	England* v Luxembourg	19.10.62	Luxembourg	qual
9-0	Holland v Norway	01.11.74	Rotterdam	qual
9-0	Romania v Finland	14.10.74	Bucharest	qual
9-0	Yugoslavia v Zaire	18.06.74	Gelsenkirchen	finals
9-0	Austria v Malta	30.04.78	Salzburg	qual
9-0	East Germany v Malta	29.10.78	Potsdam	qual
9-0	South Korea* v Nepal	25.05.90	Seoul	qual

* = *away team*

Beirut to host qualifying tournament

Lebanon will play host to a World Cup qualifying tournament next May, the country's first international football event for nearly twenty years, FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter announced in Zurich last month.

The Middle East country will host the first half of the Asian qualifiers in Group D, which also includes India, Hong Kong, Bahrain and South Korea. The round-robin tournament will be staged in Beirut from May 7 to 15, with the second half of the programme being completed in Seoul.

The decision to host the matches in Lebanon, a country which has been ravaged by civil war since 1975, is a reward for the efforts of the Lebanese FA officials who have fought hard to re-establish football in the country.

Due to the vast size of the Asian continent, playing matches in one location is a good idea, cutting travel costs to the minimum.

The five other qualifying groups have followed suit and organised mini-tournaments rather than home and away matches.

Between April 8 and July 11, 72 matches will be played in Amman, Beijing, Tehran, Damascus, Doha, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Riyadh, Tokyo, Dubai, Seoul, and, of course, Beirut.

Blatter also announced that Liberia, in Group B of the African qualifiers, would not be able to play any of their qualifying matches at home because of the volatile political situation in the area.

Similarly Libya, subject of United Nations diplomatic and trade sanctions, would also have to play their home matches on neutral territory, at dates yet to be decided.

It was also revealed that FIFA's World Cup Organizing Committee had decided to appoint a committee to study whether to award three points for a win in the first round of the World Cup finals in 1994.

This idea has gained much creedance in view of some of the sterile, contrived draws we have witnessed in recent World Cup finals. The theory is that, with three points available for a win, teams would be encouraged to attack and go for victory in the first round games, rather than play for a draw.

In the CONCACAF region, the qualifiers have now reached the final round stage, with Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador and Canada the only survivors from a starting field of 23.

Mexico made sure of their place in the last four with an 11-0 hammering of St Vincent, but coach Cesar Menotti quit shortly after, claiming he could no longer work with the Mexican FA.

In the amazing match against St Vincent striker Carlos Hermosillo scored four goals, and Marcelino Bernal and Francisco Uribe a hat-trick each in the biggest World Cup victory since New Zealand beat Fiji 13-0 in August 1981. Curiously, two days before that match, Fiji were beaten 10-0 by Australia!

Credit to St Vincent though, despite that drubbing, they can feel proud of their achievement in reaching the last eight — they had played their way through from the pre-preliminary round!

Costa Rica, who reached the second round of the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, had given themselves hope with a surprise 2-0 win over Mexico — their first over the Mexicans in 20 years — with two goals by Richard Smith.

But Honduras qualified along with Mexico after ending Costa Rica's dreams with a 2-1 victory in Tegucigalpa. Juan Flores and Cesar Obando scored the goals which assured Honduras' progression with one round of matches to play in the group.

In Group B El Salvador and Canada progressed at the expense of the Caribbean countries Jamaica and Bermuda.

El Salvador made sure of their place by winning 2-0 in front of a 25,000 crowd in Kingston, Jamaica. The match was delayed for over an hour by heavy rain and, although Jamaica dominated for long periods, the El Salvadorians won with two goals by Milton Melevedes.

Canada, with four British-based players eligible to play for them — Forrest and Yallop (Ipswich), Bunbury (West Ham) and Miller (Hamilton) — clinched their place with a 0-0 draw in Bermuda.

Bermuda, making their first World Cup appearance for more than 20 years, conceded only two goals in their five home games and were the only side to beat El Salvador. But 11 goals conceded in three away games proved their undoing.

The four surviving countries will now play a round-robin tournament, the winners qualify for the finals in the US, the runners-up meet the Oceania winners (Australia or New Zealand) with the winners of that going on to play the second-placed team from South America's Group A for a place in the last 24.

The only other recent action took place in Europe, with wins for Romania and Bulgaria. The Romanians won 4-1 in Cyprus with goals from Gica Popescu, Florin Raducioiu, Georghe Hagi and Ovidiu Hanganu.

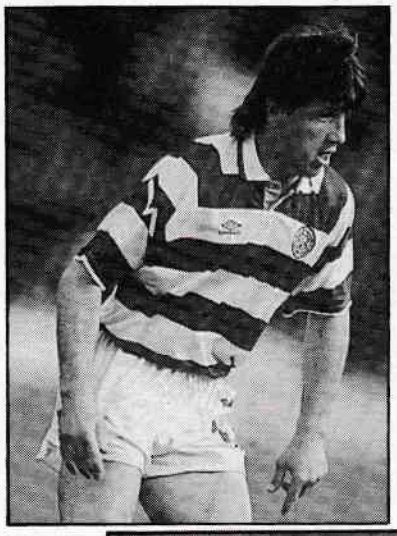
Romania are still three points adrift of Belgium in Group 4, but the victory puts pressure on Wales, who only managed a 1-0 win in Cyprus. The last game in the group: Wales v Romania in November could be decisive.

Bulgaria's 2-0 win in Tel Aviv moved them to the top of Group 6 and condemned Israel to their third defeat.

Hristo Stoichkov and Trifon Ivanov were almost dropped from the side for disciplinary reasons, but coach Dimitri Penev relented and both played. A wise decision in the end . . . Stoichkov set up the first for Nasko Sirakov and had an excellent match.

Romania's Gheorghe Hagi was on target against Cyprus.

Vata a quick starter



PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	19	14	4	1	47	14	32
Aberdeen	20	13	3	4	44	12	29
Celtic	21	10	8	3	36	25	28
Hearts	21	9	6	6	25	23	24
Dundee Utd	20	9	5	6	20	20	23
Partick	21	7	5	9	29	38	19
Hibernian	21	5	8	8	24	29	18
St Johnstone	21	5	8	8	29	36	18
Dundee	21	5	6	10	29	36	16
Falkirk	21	6	3	12	30	43	15
Airdrie	21	4	7	10	17	30	15
Motherwell	21	3	5	13	24	41	11

CELTIC still have off-field problems revolving around financial performance and stadium planning, but appear at last to be getting their act together on the pitch.

'Hopefully I can help to make Celtic the best team in the country'

Stuart Slater has scored his first goal for the club, Charlie Nicholas is slowly recovering his old confidence and flair, and manager Liam Brady has unearthed a genuine gem in Albanian international Rudi Vata, signed from Dinamo Tirana for £200,000 after fleeing the repressive political regime in his homeland.

Vata quickly settled into midfield, flourishing alongside the renowned abilities of Scotland internationals Paul McStay and John Collins.

"I am quite happy to play in any position for Celtic," said Vata, who is quickly picking up a basic knowledge of English with a pronounced Glasgow accent.

"If Mr Brady wants me to play in midfield I'd do so. Scottish football is played in a different way to the style I'm used to, but I'm certain I can adapt.

"Celtic are a good side and they have a lot of very talented youngsters who will develop into great players.

"Hopefully I can help to make Celtic the best team in the country."

Despite signs of recovery, Celtic still have a huge task if they are to present any kind of challenge to Rangers, who remain well clear in the title race.

Responsibility for closing the gap could fall on Aberdeen recent winners by 7-0 and 6-2 over Partick and Hearts respectively.

With Willie Miller having recruited Roy Aitken to the management team, the Dons now have a look of determination, missing for some time.

Their principal strengths lie up front, where former Huddersfield Town, Swindon Town and Blackburn Rovers striker Duncan Shearer has formed an impressive partnership with young Eoin Jess, who made his full international debut in the World Cup qualifier against Italy at Ibrox.

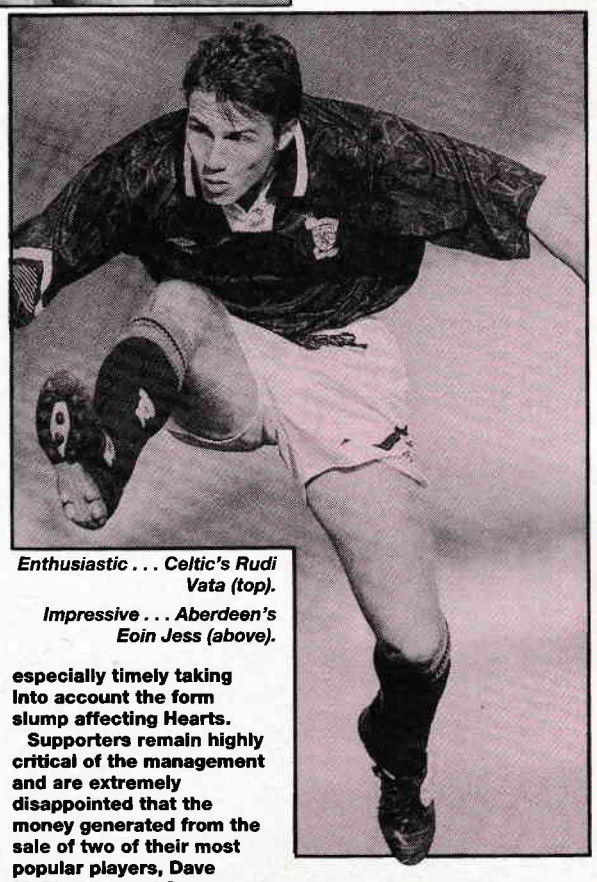
Aberdeen's challenge is especially timely taking into account the form slump affecting Hearts.

Supporters remain highly critical of the management and are extremely disappointed that the money generated from the sale of two of their most popular players, Dave McPherson and Scott Crabbe, does not appear to have been made available to strengthen playing resources.

Hearts also suffered a significant off-field blow when their application for planning permission to build a new stadium on the outskirts of Edinburgh was rejected by the local council.

The frustrations boiled over into an angry demonstration outside the main entrance to Tynecastle after the 3-2 home defeat by Airdrie.

ALAN **FAIRLEY**



Enthusiastic . . . Celtic's Rudi Vata (top).

Impressive . . . Aberdeen's Eoin Jess (above).

Sinclair switch

THE managerial merry-go-round of the Irish League continues to turn.

After eight years in charge at Cliftonville, Scotsman Billy Sinclair handed in his notice. He had precious few financial resources to work with, but those problems meant little to a vociferous group of "supporters" who had waged a campaign against him.

Last year Sinclair published an autobiography, *Don't Let the Bastards Grind you Down*, and he followed his own advice. Within four days he had been appointed manager of Coleraine, with former Linfield manager Eric Bowyer as his assistant.

The Sinclair-Bowyer partnership had worked wonders for Cliftonville in happier days; now struggling Coleraine are hoping the magic touch can be found again.

Frankie Parks, Sinclair's assistant for the past two years, took over at Cliftonville. Parks celebrated with a victory in his first home match in charge, 2-0 over Portadown.

Champions Glentoran may have to do without leading scorer Gary McCartney for several weeks.

McCartney hit 12 goals in ten League matches but hurt a knee in the 3-0 defeat of Cliftonville.

Crusaders continued to set the pace with just over a third of the League programme gone, pursued by Bangor, Linfield, Glentoran, Distillery and a strangely up and down Mid-Ulster pair, Portadown and Glenavon.

ROY **KITSON**

Wright move for Cardiff

CARDIFF CITY may leave the Football League to join the new all-Wales Konica League — and it could happen as early as next season.

Rick Wright, City's financial controller, is hoping that the club can become to Wales - what Rangers are to Scotland — the big fish in a small pool.

Cardiff have played in the Football League since 1920, and in 1927 became the only non-English club to win the FA Cup.

Now Wright feels that continued existence in the lower areas of the English set-up cannot compare, financially, with being in the dominating position in Wales, and — he hopes — virtually guaranteed European competition every season.

The UEFA grant aid to Euro-qualifiers, outlined in the November *WORLD SOCCER*, is another inducement.

"The Welsh clubs who opted to play in the English pyramid system are totally on the wrong track," says Wright.

"They're going nowhere."

MEL AP IOR **THOMAS**

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EUROPE

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WEEKEND

VFB MODLING 5 (Zisser 45, 64, Barisic 74, Wachter 83, Nikischer 88)
LINZER ASK 0. **Att:** 2,000.

ST POLTEN 3 (Ramusch 13, Prikop 38, Haiden 76)
VORWARTS 3 (Heraf 16, 88, Waldhor 19). **Att:** 3,000.

WACKER INNSBRUCK 6 (Westerthalter 19, 51, 66, 68, Danek 22, Leslak 90)
WIENER SC 0. **Att:** 4,000.

STAHL LINZ 1 (Kern 85)
ADMIRA WACKER 3 (Marschall 21, Ljung 52, 80). **Att:** 1,000.

STURM GRAZ 1 (Wetl 48)
AUSTRIA VIENNA 1 (Binder 2). **Att:** 1,000.

RAPID WIEN 2 (Fjortoft 4, Reinmayr o.g. 26)
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 2 (Pfeifenberger 57, Lainer 87). **Att:** 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA SALZBURG 3 (Hrslic 35, Stadler 70, Weber 90)
STURM GRAZ 0. **Att:** 9,000.

AUSTRIA VIENNA 4 (Stoger 75, 77, Flogel 82, Prosenik 85)
STAHL LINZ 0. **Att:** 2,000.

ADMIRA WACKER 4 (Marschall 7, 69, Abfalterer 23, Temm 42)
WACKER INNSBRUCK 0
Att: 2,000.

VORWARTS STEYR 3 (Kogler 3, Heraf 30, 55)
VfB MODLING 2 (Brankovic 18, Nikischer 84). **Att:** 5,000.

LINZER ASK 0
RAPID VIENNA 1 (Griga 72). **Att:** 1,000.

WIENER SC 4 (Pleva 70, Janoschitz 79, Hochmaler 85, Kircher 90)
ST POLTEN 2 (Schinkels 43, Ramusch 60). **Att:** 2,000.

Pfeifenberger.

TOP SCORERS

1	**Danek** (Innsbruck)	18
2	**Marschall** (Admira)	12
	Ljung (Admira)	12
	Pfeifenberger (Salzburg)	12
	Vastic (St Polten)	12

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WEEKEND

LIEGE 2 (Ikpeba 7, 44)
LOMMEL 1 (Peeters 15). **Att:** 3,000.

ANDERLECHT 2 (Versavel 74, Nilis 75)
EKEREN 0. **Att:** 12,000.

BEVEREN 1 (Oulare 70)
CHARLEROI 1 (Brogno 82). **Att:** 4,500.

GENK 0
STANDARD 1 (Van Rooy 56).
Att: 12,000.

GENT 1 (Janssens 29)
LIERSE 1 (Pauwels 56). **Att:** 6,400.

MECHELEN 2 (Ingesson 83, 85)
RWDM 0. **Att:** 6,900.

ANTWERP 3 (Czerniatynski 3, 42, Severeyns 43)
LOKEREN 1 (Samon 26). **Att:** 3,000.

FC Boom's Lukaku and Anderlecht's Albert challenge for a high ball.

CERCLE BRUGGE 3 (Weber 13, 43 66)
CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Vanderheyden 82).
Att: 14,000.

WAREGEM 8 (Kruzen 16, 74, 78, 88, Urban pen 71, Vidmar 30, 58, Abeels 57)
BOOM 0. **Att:** 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

WEEKEND

LOMMEL 2 (Vanaken pen 58, Buana 24)
BEVEREN 1 (Oulare 30). **Att:** 4,000.

LIERSE 1 (Van Kerckhoven 50)
ANTWERP 0. **Att:** 7,000.

CHARLEROI 0
CERCLE BRUGGE 1 (Cooreman 75).
Att: 10,500.

BOOM 3 (Blanckaert 16, Lukaku 80, 89)
GENK 3 (Busuttil 50, 72, Gools 70).
Att: 2,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Verheyen 69)
WAREGEM 2 (Teppers 10, Blancke 50).
Att: 17,000.

RWDM 1 (Rubinelson 47)
LIEGE 1 (Devitese o.g. 54). **Att:** 4,000.

LOKEREN 1 (Bosmans 79)
MECHELEN 2 (Van Gompel 12, Eijkelamp 74). **Att:** 4,000.

EKEREN 0
GENT 2 (Van der Linden 41, 86).
Att: 5,000.

STANDARD 1 (Wilmots 13)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Van Vossen 79).
Att: 28,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

WEEKEND

GENT 2 (Viscaal pen 69, Van Laere 72)
STANDARD 1 (Van Rooy 88). **Att:** 7,000.

ANDERLECHT 4 (Nilis 4, 22, Bosman 23, Albert 56)
BOOM 1 (Lukaku 82). **Att:** 9,000.

LIEGE 3 (Arnold 25, 45, Ikpeba 75)
LOKEREN 2 (Myyry 85, Samson 87).
Att: 5,000.

BEVEREN 0
RWDM 3 (Lorinz 18, Leeremans 56, Rubinelson 84). **Att:** 4,000.

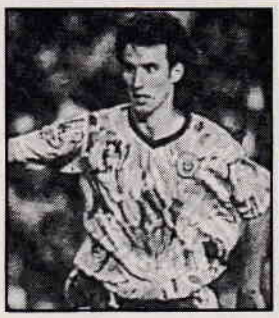
GENK 0
CLUB BRUGGE 0. **Att:**10,000.

LIERSE 3 (Pauwels 50, 71, 76)
EKEREN 0. **Att:** 4,500.

ANTWERP 4 (Severeyns 41, 88, Czerniatynski 62, 82)
MECHELEN 1 (Ingesson 1). **Att:** 6,000.

CERCLE BRUGGE 4 (Cooreman 43, Lameire 49, Weber 76, 79)
LOMMEL 0. **Att:** 4,000.

WAREGEM 1 (Gerard o.g. 50)
CHARLEROI 1 (Malbasa 52). **Att:** 9,000.



Vidmar.

TOP SCORERS

1	**Weber** (Cercle Brugge)	19
2	**Malbasa** (Charleroi)	12
3	**Ikpeba** (Liege)	11
	Kruzen (Waregem)	11
	A. Vidmar (Waregem)	11

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WEEKEND

MVV 1 (Visser 8)
VITESSE 0. **Att:** 6,139.

PSV 4 (Linskens 38, Ellerman 62, 84, Numan 83)
SVV/DORDRECHT 1 (Slagboom 90).
Att: 23,650.

AJAX 0
WILLEM II 0. **Att:** 18,085.

VOLENDAM 2 (Wasiman 54, Smeets 84)
UTRECHT 2 (Roest 38, Smolarek 72).
Att: 4,200.

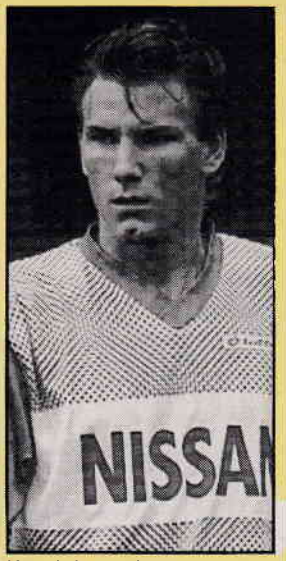
SPARTA 6 (Vurens 15, 49, Van den Berg 39, Valke 71, De Getrouwe 76, 79)
GA EAGLES 4 (Heering 32, Boere 35, Steinmann 45, Ronje 66). **Att:** 2,500.

DEN BOSCH 1 (Derksen 59)
FEYENOORD 5 (Obiku 23, Witschge 33, 55, Blinker 81, Taument 85). **Att:** 6,226.

RKC 2 (Brands 5, Boogers 56)
TWENTE 1 (De Boer 40). **Att:** 2,800.

RODA JC 4 (Hanssen 7, 79, Jansen 21, Vanderbroeck 90)
FORTUNA SITTARD 1 (Hofman 19).
Att: 4,000.

CAMBUUR 0
GRONINGEN 0. **Att:** 7,500.



Utrecht's Jan Oosterhuis.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

WEEKEND

SVV/DORDRECHT 0
VOLENDAM 4 (Sier 12, Wasiman 58, 74, Bond 65). **Att:** 1,200.

FORTUNA SITTARD 4 (Anton Janssen 40, Holman 75, 87, 88)
RKC 1 (Boogers 55). **Att:** 2,000.

WILLEM II 1 (Bouchial 90)
DEN BOSCH 1 (Derksen 23). **Att:** 6,000.

GA EAGLES 0
PSV 3 (Romerio 50, 62, Ellerman 57).
Att: 11,000.

UTRECHT 2 (Rijl 23, Oosterhuis 85)
RODA JC 1 (Vanderbroeck 10).
Att: 4,500.

TWENTE 1 (De Boer 17)
CAMBUUR 1 (Haatracth pen 14).
Att: 5,700.

GRONINGEN 0
AJAX 3 (Vink 14, Willems 25, Blind pen 86). **Att:** 16,150.

FEYENOORD 3 (Witschge 16, Kiprich 22, Blinker 40)
MVV 4 (Meijer 6, Visser 13, 59, Scheepers 82). **Att:** 16,000.

VITESSE 3 (Van der Brom 13, Cocu 20, Van Arum 90)
SPARTA 2 (Vurens 45, Van den Berg 56).
Att: 3,725.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

WEEKEND

AJAX 0
TWENTE 1 (Polley 63). **Att:** 25,500.

PSV v SPARTA — *postponed*

MVV 2 (Benneker 26, Meijer 28)
WILLEM II 0. **Att:** 7,068.

FC VOLENDAM 1 (Marbus o.g. 46)
GA EAGLES 0. **Att:** 3,750.

FEYENOORD 2 (Blinker 14, Obiku 83)
VITESSE 2 (Loeffen 27, Cocu 59).
Att: 17,200.

RODA JC 1 (Hanssen 80)
SVV/DORDRECHT 3 (Wouden 13, 83, Slagboom 79). **Att:** 2,500.

DEN BOSCH 0
GRONINGEN 2 (Van Duren 36, Ille 90).
Att: 2,500.

CAMBUUR v FORTUNA SITTARD — *postponed*

Bergkamp.

TOP SCORERS

1	**Kiprich** (Feyenoord)	11
	Bergkamp (Ajax)	11
3	**Romario** (PSV)	9
	De Boer (FC Twente)	9

Strool of Vitesse Arnhem (stripes) clashes with Blinker of Feyenoord.

at home to Twente . .

Jakobsen hat-trick .

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WEEKEND

TIRSENSE 1
SALGUEIROS 1

PACOS FERREIRA 0
FAMALICAO 0

BELENENSES 1
SP. BRAGA 2

ESTORIL 1
ESPINHO 0

MARITIMO 2
FARENSE 1

BEIRA-MAR 1
SPORTING LISBON 1

GUIMARAES 0
BENFICA 1

CHAVES 0
BOAVISTA 1

GIL VICENTE 0
FC PORTO 3

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

CUP

FAMALICAO 2
BOAVISTA 3

FARENSE 1
MARITIMO 0
After extra time

RIO AVE 3
ESTORIL 2

TIRSENSE 2
COIMBRA 2
After extra time

SALGUEIROS 3
LEIXOES 0

FIERENSE 0
CHAVES 1

PENAFIEL 3
ESPINHO 1

PACOS FERREIRA 6
CASTELO BRANCO 1

BARREIRENSE 0
SPORTING 1

BRAGA 2
ERMESINDE 0

ALVERCA 4
BEIRA-MAR 1

VIZELA 1
GUIMARAES 2

JUVENTUDE EVORA 1
GIL VICENTE 0

MOURA 0
BELENENSES 2

POULETANO 0
BENFICA 1

***Bye:* FC Porto**

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

MIDWEEK

SALGUEIROS 1
GIL VICENTE 1

FAMALICAO 1
TIRSENSE 0

SPORTING 2
PACOS FERREIRA 0

ESPINHO 3
BELENENSES 1

FARENSE 1
ESTORIL 1

SPORTING LISBON 2
MARITIMO 2

BOAVISTA 1
GUIMARAES 3

FC PORTO 2
CHAVES 1

BENFICA 0
BEIRA-MAR 0

Porto striker Kostadinov leaves Gil Vicente defender Hugo grounded during Porto's 3-0 League victory.

Cadette.

TOP SCORERS

1	**Cadette** (Sporting Lisbon)	7
2	**Balakov** (Sporting Lisbon)	6
	Edmilsson (Maritimo)	5
	Goncalves (Belenenses)	5
	Owubokiri (Boavista)	5

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WEEKEND

BULLE 0
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Bickel 47).
Att: 2,800.

CHIASSO 0
SION 0. **Att:** 1,200.

ST. GALLEN 2 (Wyss 31, 76)
YOUNG BOYS 4 (Jakobsen 5, 54, 68, Kunz 89). **Att:** 6,500.

ZURICH 1 (Grassi 52)
LAUSANNE 0. **Att:** 3,700.

SERVETTE 1 (Anderson da Silva 90)
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 2 (Bonvin 68, Smajic 82). **Att:** 9,100.

AARAU v LUGANO — *postponed.*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

MIDWEEK

AARAU 3 (Kornornicki 34, Alexandrov 36, 45)
LUGANO 1 (Galvao 53). **Att:** 4.,800.

WEEKEND

GRASSHOPPER 1 (Elber 67)

CHIASSO 1 (Fargeon 40). **Att:** 3,700.

YOUNG BOYS 4 (Jakobsen 20, Streun 27, Nowak 59, Christensen 85)
BULLE 1 (Hartmann 53). **Att:** 6,500.

SION 2 (Luis Carlos 24, Marcio 89)
ST GALLEN 1 (Hurtado 23). **Att:** 7,500.

LUGANO 0
FC ZURICH 1 (Waas 52). **Att:** 4,200.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 5 (Manfreda 6, pen 16, Fernandez 45, Bonvin 48, Ramzy 89)
AARAU 1 (Alexandrov 39). **Att:** 12,200.

LAUSANNE 2 (La Placa 10, 57)
SERVETTE 1 (Anderson da Silva 13). **Att:** 12,400.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

WEEKEND

YOUNG BOYS 2 (Christensen 28, Nowak 82)
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Vega 41).
Att: 16,000.

BULLE 1 (Hartmann 34)
SION 2 (Tulio 23, 45). **Att:** 4,200.

ST GALLEN 0
CHIASSO 1 (Douglas 25). **Att:** 2,000.

ZURICH 1 (Grassi 71)
SERVETTE 1 (Sinval 73). **Att:** 7,100.

AARAU 1 (Romano 70)
LAUSANNE 1 (La Placa 53). **Att:** 4,000.

LUGANO 2 (Gottardi o.g. 22, Zuffi 29)
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 0. **Att:** 3,200.

Bickel of Grasshopper Zurich.

TOP SCORERS

1	**Anderson da Silva** (Servette)	14
2	**Jakobsen** (Young Boys)	12
3	**Elber** (Grasshopper)	11
4	**Tulio** (Sion)	10
	Alexandrov (FC Aarau)	10

INTERNATIONAL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Nov 18 = Ilawa — friendly
POLAND 1 (Mielcarski 70)
LATVIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Sliwa (Lat)
Poland: Matysek (Klak 46) — Rzepka, Waldoch, Jalocha — Kobylanski, R Staniek, Czerwiec, Jegor, Fedoruk — Cebula (Wegrzyn 46), Mielcarski.
Latvia: Igosin — Alexeyenko, Gniedoi, Savraikov, Erglis — Stravins (Glazov 46), Astaviev, Gilis (Popkov 46), Yemielyanov (Maniak 75) — Limart, Yeliseyev.

Nov 18 = Larnaca — friendly
CYPRUS 1 (Savvides 50)
SLOVENIA 1 (Nilosevic 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Loizan.
Cyprus: M Christofi — Panagi, Pittas, Costa, Nikolau — Yiangudakis, Andreou, P Christofi, Ioannou — Papavasiliou, Savvides.
Slovenia: Simeunovic — Zidan, Elsner, Kek (Krizan), Milanic — Nivak, Pate (Ceh), Zulic, Zahovic (Kosic) — Milosevic, Florijancic.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Nov 20 = Cairo — friendly
EGYPT 1 (Mansour 39)
KUWAIT 1 (Marawi 50)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Nov 22 = Kingston —
WC CONCACAF gp A
ST VINCENT 0
HONDURAS 4 (Flores 16, 22, Suazo 44, Vasquez 54, Bennet 83)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000.

Nov 22 = Mexico City —
WC CONCACAF gp A
MEXICO 4 (Garcia 61, 69, Suarez 64, De la Torre 82)
COSTA RICA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Escobar (Gua)
Mexico: Campos — Ambriz, Suarez, Ruiz, Esparza, Munoz, Espana (Ordiales 46), De la Torre, Espinosa, Garcia, Alves (Garcia Dias 62).
Costa Rica: Barrantes — Guthrie, Flores, Montero, Rodriguez, Mayorga (Hernaiz 30), Marchena, Gonzalez, Ramirez, Smith (Coronado 46), Medford.

Nov 22 = Kingston —
WC CONCACAF gp B
JAMAICA 0
EL SALVADOR 2 (Milton Mendez 8, 85)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Ulloa (CR)

Nov 22 — East and Central African Chp gp A
UGANDA 5
SEYCHELLES 2
HT: 1-2.

Nov 22 — East and Central African Chp gp B
ZAMBIA 8
ZANZIBAR 0
HT: 4-0.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Nov 24 = Lima — friendly
PERU 1 (Ramirez 53)
ECUADOR 1 (Zambrano 4)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Nov 26 = Buenos Aires — friendly
ARGENTINA 2 (Craviotto 22, Medina Bello 53)
POLAND 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Marsiglia (Bra)
Argentina: Islas — Craviotto, Vazquez, Ruggeri, Altamirano, Villareal (Gorosito 75), Redondo, Simeone, L Rodriguez (Cagna 75), Medina Bello (Zamora 84), Acosta.
Poland: Klak — Jalocha, Waldoch, Lapinski, Jegor, Kobylanski, Swierczewski (Mielcarski 51), Brzeczeck, Fedoruk (Czerwiec 46), Kowalczyk, Cebula (Wegrzyn 87).

Poland's Lapinski (left) attempts a clearance as Argentina's Medina Bello moves in.

CONTINUED

Nov 26 = Campinas Grande — friendly
BRAZIL 1 (Edmundo 4)
URUGUAY 2 (Cabrera 42, Guerra 65)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000.
Brazil: Gilmar — Luis Carlos Winck (Vitor), Valber, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos — Cesar Sampaio (Palhinha), Junior (Silas), Rai, Zinho (Elivelton) — Edmundo, Evair (Nilson).
Uruguay: Siboldi — Da Luz, Sanchez, Moas, Cabrera — Moran, Ostolaza, Saralegui — Garcia (Carlos Sanchez), Guerra, Pelleti.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Nov 28 = Tegucigalpa — WC CONCACAF gp A
HONDURAS 4 (Smith 8, Obando 24, Flores 34, Anariba 86)
ST VINCENT 0
HT: 3-0.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Nov 29 = San Jose — WC CONCACAF gp A
COSTA RICA 2 (Smith 47, 88)
MEXICO 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000.
Costa Rica: Barrantes — Guthrie, Gonzalez, Montero, Berry — Fonseca, Ramirez, Mayorga, Marchena — Smith, Medford.
Mexico: Fernandez — Suarez, Perales, Ambriz, Munoz — Espana, De la Torre (Alberto Garcia), Ordiales, Espinoza — Alvez (Uribe), Hermosillo.

Nov 29 = Larnaca — WC Euro gp 4
CYPRUS 1 (Pittas 39 pen)
ROMANIA 4 (Popescu 4, Raducioiu 36, Hagi 73, Hanganu 86)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Jouini (Tun)
Cyprus: M Christofi — Kalotheu, Pittas, C Constantinou, D. Ioannou, Yiangudakis, Andreou (Hadjilukas 25), P Christofi, Y Ioannou (Soteriou 62), Papavasiliou, Savvides.
Romania: Stelea — Petrescu, Belodedici, Mihali, Lupescu, Popescu, Lacatus, Dumitrescu, Raducioiu (Hanganu 58), Hagi, Munteanu.

Nov 29 = Montevideo — friendly
URUGUAY 0
POLAND 1 (Jegor 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000.
Uruguay: Siboldi — Gomez, D Sanchez, Kanapkis, Cabrera — C. Sanchez, Dorta (Rodriguez), Saralegui, Martinez (Miranda) — Mendez (Garcia), Dos Santos.
Poland: Matysek — Jalocha, Lapinski, Wegrzyn, Gesior — Waldoch, Staniek, Kobylanski — Swierczewski, Brzeczek (Kowalczyk), Mielcarski (Jegor).
● This was Uruguay's first home defeat since 1981, when Peru knocked them out of the qualifying rounds of the 1982 World Cup.

Nov 29 = Hong Kong — Carlsberg Challenge
HONG KONG 3 (Tam Siu-wai 8, Tempest 56 pen, 71)
NORWAY 3 (Flo 22, 49, Skammelsrud 88)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,000.
Norway 4-1 on pens (after 90min).
Norway: Rossbach — Bjonsaas (O E Martinsson 16), T. Pedersen, Eftevaag, Bjornbye — Leonhardsen, Staurvik, Ingebrigtsen, Skammelsrud, Flo, Dahlum (Sorloth 23).

Nov 29 = Mwanza — East and Central African Chp Final
TANZANIA 0
UGANDA 1 (Issa Sekatawa 77)
HT: 0-0.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Dec 2 = Tel-Aviv — WC Euro gp 6
ISRAEL 0
BULGARIA 2 (Sirakov 55, Penev 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Nikakis (Gr)
Israel: Ginzburg — Halfon, Hillel, Shelach, Ben Shimon, Klinger, Banin, Mizrachi (Hazan 80), Bercovitch (Harazi 84), Ravivo, Rosenthal.
Bulgaria: Mikhailov — Kiriakov, Ivanov, Bezinski, N Iliev, Yankov, E Kostadinov, Stoichkov, Penev, Sirakov, Yordanov (Iskrenov 89).

Dec 2 = Guanzhou — friendly
CHINA 2 (Zhu Bo 34, Peng Wei Guao 50)
NORWAY 1 (Flo 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Li Shao-feng (Chi)
China: Fy Yu Bin — Feng Shi Gang, Dong Li Giang, Fan Shi Yi, Li Bing, Wu Gun Li, Hou Hai Dong (Li Xiou 10), Gai Sheng, Xie Yu Xin, Li Min, Zhu Bo (Peng Wei Guao 46).
Norway: By Rise — O E Martinsson, Beng, T Pedersen, Bjornbye (Flo 26), J O Pedersen (Leonhardsen 30), Skammelsrud, Mykland, Ingebrigtsen, Sorloth, Strandli.

Under-21 action from Turkey's 1-0 win over England at Brisbane Road.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Dec 5 = Tegucigalpa — WC CONCACAF gp A
HONDURAS 2 (Flores 15, Obando 51)
COSTA RICA 1 (Astua 73)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,000.
Honduras: W Cruz — Yearwood, A Cruz, Castro, Dolmo, Richardson (Funez), Obando, Clix, Anariba, Flores (Pineda), Suazo.
Costa Rica: Barrantes — R Gonzalez, M Montero, Marchena, Guthrie, Berry, Mayorga (Astuar), Diaz, Fonseca, Ramirez (Arnaez), Medford.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Dec 6 = Mexico City — WC CONCACAF gp A
MEXICO 11 (Uribe 5, 38, 88, Hermosillo 14, 23, 76, 80, Bernal 30, 56, 71, Alves 44 pen)
ST VINCENT 0
HT: 6-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Gomez (ES)
Mexico: Fernandez — Suarez, Ruiz Esparza, Ramirez Perales, Bernal, Espana (Ordiales), Espinosa (Coyote), Uribe, Alberto Garcia, Hermosillo, Alves.
St Vincent: King — D Browne, A Browne, Sutherland, Patrick, Olivierre, Richardson, Curtis, Harry, Dupont, Jack.

Dec 6 = Hamilton — WC CONCACAF gp B
BERMUDA 0
CANADA 0
Att: 5,000.

Dec 6 = San Salvador — WC CONCACAF gp B
EL SALVADOR 2 (Melendez 21, Diaz Arce 64)
JAMAICA 1 (Davis 35)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000.

OTHER MATCHES

Nov 18 *(Zamosc):* **Poland U-21 3** (Plyzcza 65, 90, Bak og 75), **Ukraine 3** (Golovan 72, Pokhlebayev 78 pen, Popov 82).
Nov 19 *(Monaco):* **Monaco 1** (Perez 15), **United States 0.**
Nov 26 *(Kuala Lumpur):* **Malaysia 0, Norway U-21 6** (Haland 13, Bjorkan 19, Ostenstad 24, 57, Ulfstein 49, Sundgot 54).
Nov 30 *(Kuala Lumpur):* **Malaysia 0, Norway U-21 2** (Ulfstein 42, Soborg 88).
Dec 1: Morocco 1, Charleroi 0; Malaysia 1, Uzbekistan 0.
Dec 5 *(Perth):* **Australia U-20 1** (Alagich 46), **Brazil U-20 0.**

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP 1
Oct 13 *(Perth):* **Scotland 0, Portugal 0. Oct 15** *(Cremona):* **Italy 1** (Vieri 53), **Switzerland 0. Nov 17** *(Grenchen):* **Switzerland 4** (Camenzind 15, Margarini 28, Comisetti 30, Karlen 37), **Malta 0.**

GROUP 2
Oct 6 *(Serravalle):* **San Marino 0, Norway 3** (Strandli 26, Swift 56, Petter 76). **Oct 13** *(Utrecht):* **Holland 1** (Van Gastel 77), **Poland 3** (Hajto 25, Wojciechowski 28, Dabrowski 49); *(Peterborough):* **England 0, Norway 2** (Strandli 2, Haland 67). **Oct 27** *(Ankara):* **Turkey 4** (Hasan 7, Bulent 16, 21, Mustafa 44), **San Marino 0. Nov 17** *(Brisbane Road, London):* **England 0, Turkey 1** (Aydin 76).

GROUP 3
Oct 13 *(Copenhagen/Osterbro):* **Denmark 3** (Kristensen 14, Moller 35, 52), **Rep Ireland 2** (Dempsey 5, McGrath 84). **Nov 17** *(Tirana):* **Albania 0, Germany 1** (Unger 21); *(Jerez):* **Spain 2** (Kiko 24, Acosta 27), **Rep. Ireland 1** (McCarthy 65).

GROUP 4
Oct 13 *(Seraing):* **Belgium 1** (Crasson 89), **Romania 0;** *(Larnaca/Papadopulos):* **Cyprus 2** (Marios 64, Kiriakos 84), **Wales 4** (Bowen 34, Blake 39, 50, 75). **Nov 13** *(Bucharest):* **Romania 1** (Moldovan 44), **Czechoslovakia 0. Nov 17** *(Kortrijk):* **Belgium 3** (Crasson 25 pen, Goossens 27, Walem 82), **Wales 1** (Lee Jones 21). **Nov 28** *(Paralimni):* **Cyprus 0, Romania 2** (Safta 31, Stinga 74).

GROUP 5
Oct 7 *(Reykjavik):* **Iceland 1** (T Gudjonsson 81pen), **Greece 3** (Mahlas 4, Kostic 73, 88). **Oct 13** *(Moscow):* **Russia 5, Iceland 0. Oct 27** *(Moscow):* **Russia 2** (Sherbakov, Beshchastnikh), **Luxembourg 1** (Cardoni). **Nov 10** *(Edhessa):* **Greece 2, Hungary 1.**

GROUP 6
Oct 6 *(Halmstad):* **Sweden 6** (H Larsson 29, 40, 54, A Bild 65, 86, Jeglertz 89), **Bulgaria 0. Oct 14** *(Beauvais):* **France 6** (Ouedec 8pen, Pedros 12, Nouma 33, Dugarry 41, 55, Vairelles 77), **Austria 1** (Thetis og 44). **Oct 27** *(Vienna):* **Austria 1** (Pirk 15), **Israel 5** (Keisy 20, Revivo 25 pen, 27, Mizrahi 75, Torjman 76). **Nov 10** *(Herzliya):* **Israel 1, Sweden 1. Dec 1: Israel 1, Bulgaria 2.**

SOUTH AMERICA

SOUTH AMERICAN CLUB RESULTS

SUPER CUP
(for Libertadores Cup winners)
Second round (1st legs)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

In Sao Paulo, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 1 (Palhinha)
OLIMPIA (Par) 2 (Amarilla, Sanabria)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Juan Bava (Arg).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor (Cafu), Adilson, Ronaldo, Valbet, Pintado, Toninho Cerezo, Rai, Cate, Palhinha, Muller.
Olimpia: Tavarelli, Caceres, Ramirez, Ayala, Suarez, Jara, Sanabria, Romero, Gonzalez (Nunez), Amarilla, Caballero (Samaniego).
● Olimpia were solid in defence, marked tightly in the middle, playing calmly and showing their experience while they were dangerous in attack with only Amarilla and Saravia up. Sao Paulo, on the other hand, got desperate and frustrated after going a goal down in 30 minutes when they could not get through. Palhinha took one of their few chances to score and they deserved to lose at home.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 2 (Paulo Roberto pen., Coca o.g.)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 100,000. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Par).
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Paulo Roberto, Celio Lucio, Luizinho, Nonato, Douglas, Boiadeiro, Luiz Fernando, Betinho (Roberto Gaucho), Renato Gaucho (Cleison), Edson.
River Plate: Comizzo, Dominquez, Caceres, Balbis, Cocca, Zapata, Astrada, H. Diaz, Da Silva (Silvani), Medina Bello, R. Daiz (Claut).
● River Plate were outplayed after the early stages and were not happy with the penalty given against them after 29 minutes from which Paulo Roberto opened the score. Their problems were compounded two minutes later when Astrada was sent off for a violent foul, leaving them with 10 men for two-thirds of the game and then Cocca put through his own goal in the second half. A black night for Rive Plate, but Cruzeiro were much better and won deservedly.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
FLAMENGO (Bra) 1 (Gaucho pen)
ESTUDIANTES (Arg) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Jorge Nieves (Uru).
Flamengo: Gilmar, Claudio, Junior Baiano, Rogerio, Pia, Uidemar, Junior, Marquinhos, Luis Antonio (Marcelimnho), Paulo Nunes, Gaucho.
Estudiantes: Yorno, Pratola, Irribarren, Erbin, Ramirez, Peinado, Siviski, Paris, Capria, Larrea (Squadroni), Percudani (Calderon).
● Estudiantes, defending tightly, were unlucky to lose with what appeared a doubtful penalty seven minutes from the end.

RACING CLUB (Arg) *walk-over* NACIONAL (Uru)
● Nacional had to withdraw due to the players strike in Uruguay.

Second round (2nd legs)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (Amarilla)
SAO PAULO (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Alberto Tejada (Peru).
Olimpia won 3-1 on agg
Olimpia: Goycochea, Caceres, Ramirez, Ayala, Suarez, Jara Heyn, Vidal Sanabria, Romero, Caballero, Amarilla, Gonzalez (Nunez).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Walker, Adilson, Cafu, Pintado, Toninho Cerezo, Cucca, Marco Adriano (Ronaldo Luis), Cate (Dinho), Palhina.
● Olimpia scored within two minutes to take a two-goal aggregate lead and a Sao Paulo team with a number of reserves hardly troubled Argentine World Cup goalkeeper Goycochea in the Olimpia goal.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 2 (R. Diaz pen.,Silvani)
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Enrique Marin (Chi).
Agg: 2-2, Cruzeiro won 5-4 on pens.
River Plate: Comizzo, Basualdo, Caceres, Cocca, Altamirano, Ortega, (Silvani), Claut (Toresani), Zapata, Medina Bello, R. Diaz, Da Silva.
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Paulo Roberto, Luizinho, Celio, Nonato, Douglas, Boiadeiro, Luiz Fernando, Betinho (Adilson), Edson Renato, Roberto Gaucho (Edson).
● Justice was done in the penalty shoot-out which put Cruzeiro into the semi-finals by 5-4 after they netted their five shots in a row. Below form River Plate were lucky to be drawing 0-0 near the end — a result which would have eliminated them anyway — even against eight-men Cruzeiro. Luisinho and Boiadeiro had been sent off after 78 and 83 minutes and Adilson went off injured shortly after coming on as the second substitute, but River Plate still did not get through. Then referee Marin "invented" a penalty with a minute to go from which Ramon Diaz scored and as time added on was being played, Cruzeiro conceded another penalty — this time a proper one from which Silvani scored to make the aggregate score 2-2 and force a shoot-out. Ramon Diaz, of all people, was the only one to shoot wide. The Brazilian players were attacked by home fans before and after the game when many of them got onto the field. As a result CONMEBOL closed River Plate's stadium for six months for games under their jurisdiction which means that their team will have to play most of next year's Libertadores Cup — for which they have qualified — away from their home ground.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

In La Plata, Argentina.
ESTUDIANTES (Arg) 1 (Siviski)
FLAMENGO (Bra) 1 (Marquinhos)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Ernesto Filippi (Uru).
Flamengo won 2-1 on agg
Estudiantes: Yorno, Iribarren, Paris, Erbin, Palermo, Pratola, Ramirez, Siviski, Peinado (Calderon), Carracedo, Percudani, Larrea.
Flamengo: Gilmar, Paulinho, Junior Bahiano, Rogerio, Pia, Junior, Uidemar, Marquinhos, Luiz Antonio (Gelson), Paulo Nunes (Julio Cesar), Gaucho.
● Estudiantes dominated all through the first half, but curiously goalkeeper

Yorno was the man to cause Flamengo most trouble, playing near the halfway line and sending long range shots into the box. In the second half Estudiantes lost control and Flamengo became more dangerous, well led by veteran Junior who combined with Marquinhos for his team's goal. Two up on aggregate with only 15 minutes to go was enough for Flamengo and Estudiantes managed to draw one goal back with seven minutes to go.

Semi-finals — 1st legs

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

In Sao Paulo, Brazil
FLAMENGO (Bra) 3 (Junior, Rogerio, Djalma Dias pen)
RACING CLUB (Arg) 3 (Graciani, C. Garcia, Matosas pen)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Armando Perez (Col).
Flamengo: Gilmar, Fabinho, Junior Bahaiano, Rogerio, Pia, Uidemar, Marquinhos, Junior, Luis Antonio, Paulo Nunes, Gaucho (Djalma Dias).
Racing: Roa, Distefano, Borelli, Costas, Reinoso, Vallejos, Matosas, Paz, Cabrol (Allegue), C. Garcia, Graciani (Zaccanti).

● Racing almost got away with a valuable away win. Flamengo's equalizer came from a penalty with the last shot of the game as time added on for stoppages was being played. With most of the game played under heavy rain, Flamengo rarely put a foot wrong in the first half with Junior once against standing out. Racing pressed a bit more in the second half which both teams finished with nine men — Rogerio and Luis Antonio (F) and Reinoso and Distefano (R) being sent off.

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Par) 0
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 1 (Luiz Fernando)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Jorge Orellana (Ecu).
Olimpia: Goycochea, Caceres, Ayala (M. Sanabria), Ramirez, Suarez, Romero, Vidal Sanabria, Jara Heyn, Gonzalez, Amarilla, Caballero (Samaniego).
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Paulo Roberto, Celio Lucio, Harley, Nonato, Douglas, Rogerio, Luiz Fernando (Edson), Betinho, Renato Gaucho, Roberto Gaucho.

● Cruzeiro overran their rivals with old style Brazilian touch soccer and quick passing and Olimpia, unable to hold their fast attacks spearheaded by Luiz Fernando and the two Gauchos, was lucky to lose only 1-0 at home.

Semi-finals — 2nd legs

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 2 (Paulo Roberto pen, Roberto Gaucho)
OLIMPIA (Par) 2 (Amarilla, Ramirez)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 85,000.
Cruzeiro won 3-2 on agg
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Paulo Roberto, Celio Lucio, Luisinho, Nonato, Douglas, Boiadeiro, Luis Fernando (Rogerio), Betinho, Renato Gaucho (Toto), Roberto Gaucho.
Olimpia: Goycochea, Nunez, Ayala, Ramirez, Suarez, Adolfo Jara, Heyn, Zanabria, Romero, Gonzalez (Campos), Amarilla (Samaniego), Caballero.

● Both teams went out for goals from the start and Olimpia conceded a penalty within two minutes from which Cruzeiro went two ahead in their aggregate score. In a hectic match, Cruzeiro always looked more solid and were never in any real danger as Olimpia's equalizer came only in the final minute.

In Avellaneda, Argentina.
RACING CLUB (Arg) 1 (Graciani)
FLAMENGO (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jorge Orellana (Ecu).
Racing Club won 4-3 on agg
Racing: Roa, Abramovich, Borelli, Zaccanti, Distefano, Matosas, Costas, Cabrol (Allegue), R. Paz, C. Garcia, Graciani (F. Torres).
Flamengo: Gilmar, Claudio, Gelson, Junior Bahaiano, Pia, Uidemar, Fabinho, Junior, Julio Cesar (Nelio), Paulo Nunes, Gaucho (Djalmar Dias).

● Graciani scored the only goal after 17 minutes against the run of play. Flamengo showed better ball play and control in the first half. With playmaker Ruben Paz improving in the second half, Racing were on top, but there was little danger to the goals on either side until the last 25 minutes when Racing slowed down and were pressed more and more with goalkeeper Roa keeping their win intact.

Final — 1st leg

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 4 (Roberto Gaucho 2, Luis Fernando, Boiadeiro)
RACING CLUB (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 77,000. **Ref:** Jose Torres (Col).
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Paulo Roberto, Celio Lucio, Luizinho, Nonato, Douglas, Luis Fernando, Boiadeiro, Renato Gaucho, Betinho, Roberto Gaucho.
Racing: Roa, Reinoso, Borelli, Zaccanti, Distefano, Matosas (F. Torres), Costas, Guendulain, R. Paz, C. Garcia, Graciani (Vallejos).

● Cruzeiro went a long way towards retaining the Super Cup with this first leg victory. Under heavy rain, Cruzeiro were well on top, more so near the end when Racing had two defenders — Zaccanti and Borelli — sent off after 56 and 79 minutes. Racing tried individual marking against rivals who were superior individually and in organization.

Copa hopefuls

US and Mexico join the rest in Ecuador

A RECORD total of 12 countries will be taking part in the Copa America later this year.

The United States and Mexico have been invited, for the first time, to join the ten South American nations in what is the oldest international soccer tournament in the world now that the British Championship no longer exists.

The event will be staged in Ecuador comprising 26 matches on 16 dates from June 15 to July 4.

Three groups of four nations will contest the first round on a league basis, with the top two from each group going into the knockout quarter-finals, and the two countries having the best third-place records progressing as well.

Ecuador, as hosts, will play in the first game, against Venezuela in Quito.

The final will be in Guayaquil, where the Barcelona stadium's capacity is being increased to 90,000.

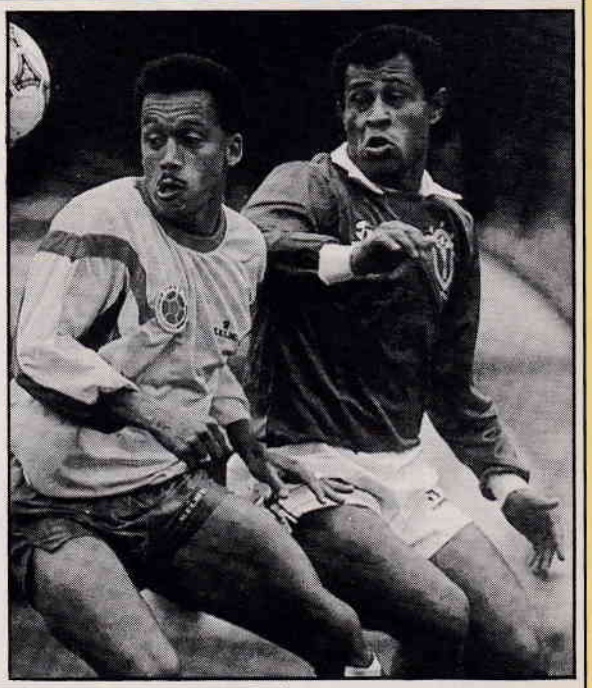
Argentina, who won the Copa in 1991 for the first time in 32 years, are favourites to take the title again, extending their total to 15 out of 37.

Uruguay have won 13 times, Brazil four, Paraguay and Peru twice, and Bolivia once.

The competition, often bedevilled by the awkward number of competitions, now seems to be following a format favouring defensive football.

In theory, a country achieving three 0-0 draws could qualify for the quarter-finals, depending on the other group results. The fact that only four of the 12 will be eliminated in the first stage indicates an unfortunate emphasis on keeping opponents out, rather than outscoring them by attacking methods.

Bill Nuttall, US soccer's general manager of the national teams, said: "We are very excited about being in such a prestigious tournament.
"These are among the best teams in the world, and we are looking forward to this with tremendous interest."



Contenders . . . Colombia's Herrera and Brazil's Joao Paulo.

Winners . . . Argentina's captain Ruggeri with the trophy last year.

1993 COPA AMERICA

Group A: Ecuador, Uruguay, US, Venezuela.
Group B: Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Peru.
Group C: Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Bolivia.

FIXTURES

First Round

Date	Opponents	Venue
June 15	Ecuador v Venezuela	Quito
June 16	Uruguay v US	Quito
	Colombia v Mexico	Quito
June 17	Argentina v Bolivia	Ambato
June 18	Paraguay v Chile	Machala
	Brazil v Peru	Cuenca
June 19	Uruguay v Venezuela	Quito
	Ecuador v US	Quito
June 20	Colombia v Bolivia	Ambato
	Argentina v Mexico	Ambato
June 21	Paraguay v Peru	Machala
	Brazil v Chile	Cuenca
June 22	US v Venezuela	Quito
	Ecuador v Uruguay	Quito
June 23	Mexico v Bolivia	Ambato
	Argentina v Colombia	Ambato
June 24	Chile v Peru	Cuenca
	Brazil v Paraguay	Cuenca

Quarter-finals

June 26	#1	Winner A v 3rd (1)	Quito
	#2	Winner C v 2nd A	Guayaquil
June 27	#3	Winner B v 3rd (2)	Quito
	#4	2nd B v 2nd C	Guayaquil

Semi-finals

June 30	Winner #1 v Winner #3	Guayaquil
July 1	Winner #2 v Winner #4	Guayaquil

Third-place play-off

July 3	Semi-final losers	Portoviejo

Final

July 4	Semi-final winners	Guayaquil

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1910	Argentina
1916	Uruguay
1917	Uruguay
1919	Brazil
1920	Uruguay
1921	Argentina
1922	Brazil
1923	Uruguay
1924	Uruguay
1925	Argentina
1926	Uruguay
1927	Argentina
1929	Argentina
1935	Uruguay
1937	Argentina
1939	Peru
1941	Argentina
1942	Uruguay
1945	Argentina
1946	Argentina
1947	Argentina
1949	Brazil
1953	Paraguay
1955	Argentina
1956	Uruguay
1957	Argentina
1959	Argentina
1959	Uruguay ★
1963	Bolivia
1967	Uruguay
1975	Peru
1979	Paraguay
1983	Uruguay
1987	Uruguay
1989	Brazil
1991	Argentina

★ *Unofficial tournament*

BRIAN GLANVILLE'S LAST WORD

Menace of Milan

LOVE HIM or loathe him, you have to concede that Silvio Berlusconi (above) does not mince his words.

Not long ago, he told us: "I find it absurd that international footballers are paid by the Football Federation while they collect salaries from clubs as well. Club football will always be more important than the national team, which is just a flagship for the chauvinists."

Nice, at least, to see somebody using the word chauvinist properly, grabbing it back from the embattled feminists. Chauvin, a French super-nationalist, was the man from whom it derived.

Unquestionably there can be chauvinism in abundance in international football. Remember the ultimate instance: the so-called Football War between Honduras and El Salvador.

If only Berlusconi spoke as an altruist, a man high above the conflict, whose only goal, outside the football field, is that nation should speak peace unto nation.

But of course chauvinism, in more local form, can be found all too readily among football fans. Even those in the same city.

Who could hate each other more than the fans of Rangers and Celtic?

Berlusconi wants to see football as a world made safe for clubs in general and Milan in particular.

I can well understand why.

Having spent such vast amounts on so many stars, why should he be obliged to put them at risk in international games? Overall, however, I find Berlusconi's stance arrogant, superficial and outrageous.

Whatever FIFA may have done to undermine the World Cup, it remains the premier competition in the game, the one with the highest prestige, leaving even the European Champions' Cup toiling helplessly in the rear.

The highest honour for any footballer in a major soccer country is to win an international cap. Berlusconi, with his buy-anything-that-moves policy, has built a multi-national team capable of giving a game and even a beating to most countries, but that surely is the exception that proves the rule.

True, some players do not always want to play for their countries; Ruud Gullit, Johan Cruyff, Franz Beckenbauer, Gerd Muller, Paul Breitner.

All these, however, gladly played, and with much distinction, in their earlier years. They had, you might say, paid their dues. Today, Paul Gascoigne simply cannot wait to play for England despite the adulation in Rome.

There is little doubt that the step from club to international football is a long one. Many are called but relatively few are chosen. We are all aware of numerous players, throughout history, who excelled with their clubs, but somehow failed to make the transition to international football. They even said that about the peerless Stanley Matthews.

I find Berlusconi's stance arrogant, superficial and outrageous

I hate what Berlusconi is doing at Milan. I hate the way he snaps up so many of the few players of true stature in the game today, and condemned some of them at least to life in the stands; not even, thanks to Italian rules, on the bench.

That footballers of the merits of Papin, Savicevic, Boban and even Gullit are taken out of football is a kind of crime. We all want to see them, We are all being robbed.

I would dearly love to see Milan bounced out of the Champions' Cup. I would be filled with joy to see them lose the League. Not that I have anything against the club or the players. I am simply appalled by what Milan and Berlusconi are doing.

Robbed . . . Jean-Pierre Papin's struggle to command a regular place in the Milan side is a kind of crime against football.

WINNING WAYS WITH WOMEN

THERE are possibilities that in the Olympics of 1996, in Atlanta, full-scale football will be represented by a women's tournament, men's football by five-a-side.

As one who feels that the Olympics are a kind of global blight, a giant, spreading sore which should have been eliminated long ago, I cannot say that I'm a bit surprised.

The Americans want women's football because they think they can win it. Their splendid Amazons won

BANK ON BARNES

OLD adages die hard, but they sometimes tend to lose their relevance. Such as "One man can't make a team."

Paul Gascoigne's performance against Turkey at Wembley seemed to show that the reverse can be true. Gazza has quite transformed England from drab mediocrity to a team capable of playing elegant, incisive football. Without Gazza, they still resemble a car without an engine.

There are reasons for thinking that, broadly, this was always true. We do not have to go back very far to see the effect Diego Maradona had on Argentina, in two World Cups, and on Napoli, who won two titles. Which brings us to John Barnes.

I was one of those privileged to be at Loftus Road when he returned to the Liverpool team as substitute, 17 minutes into the game against QPR, having been out of football since rupturing an achilles tendon in June.

After the match, Barnes (left) was typically self-deprecating, insisting that he was still far from fit, that he had not transformed the game. But he had. His first contribution, an elegant chest trap which simultenously took him past his marker, was the prelude to a display of elegant skill, strategic flair, inspirational quality.

We all know Barnes can play like that; what we don't know is when he will do so. Graham Taylor, who nurtured him at Watford from the age of 17, knows him and his potential better than anybody. He classes him as one of the two great talents of English football, the other, of course, being Gascoigne. But could they co-exist?

the women's World Cup in China. As for men's football, the arrogant old men of the Olympic Committee are not satisfied with FIFA's insistence that the tournament be played by young teams, such as the Under-23s. They want full international sides, which is an insane demand.

In this, at least, I would be wholly on Silvio Berlusconi's side. All that surely went out in the shamateur days of the 1920s, when the World Cup was conceived precisely to put an end to chicanery and paradox.

A women's tournament? Okay. But why not women's wrestling, women's weight-lifting, which have their own world championships? Answer, presumably, because the Americans do not think they could win them.

My view is that women's football, and I've had to report internationals, should be confined to consenting adults in private. But then, logic and the Olympics seldom meet.

NEXT MONTH IN . . .

WORLD SOCCER

Talking soccer . . .

GULLIT & PAPIN

Walter Smith . . .

Rangers' manager

Spotlights on . . .

Alessandro Costacurta
Stefan Beckenbauer
Juan Jose Borelli

World Cup update

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MARSEILLE

BACK ROW : Fabien Barthez, Bernard Casoni, Rudi Voller, Franck Sauzee, Marcel Desailly, Basile Boli.

MARSEILLE FACTFILE

Ground: Stade Velodrome.

Capacity: 46,000.

Address: 441 Avenue du Prado, BP 124, 13257 Marseille Cedex 08.

Telephone: (91) 765609.

Founded: 1898.

President: Bernard Tapie.

Coach: Raymond Goethals.

HONOURS

Championship (9): 1929, 1937, 1948, 1971, 1972, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992.

Cup (10): 1924, 1926, 1927, 1935, 1938, 1943, 1969, 1972, 1976, 1989.

FRONT ROW: Abedi Pele, Alen Boksic, Jocelyn Angloma, Didier Deschamps, Eric Di Meco.